

Jordan Times

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Syria rejects Geagen's charges

BEIRUT (AP) — Syria denied on Saturday it was involved in the recent flare-up of fighting in eastern Lebanon and indirectly accused the Lebanese Christian militia "Lebanese Forces" of being the aggressor. "This small Lebanese minority militia is engaged in sectarian and deliberately involves Syria's name in matters in Syria is not involved, with the purpose of provoking the Lebanese people," said a spokesman for the Syrian Arab Republic. It said this minority "which has been created in the wake of external forces, including Israel, will in no way be allowed to become a permanent fixture in Lebanon and their existence for peace and national reconciliation." Rightist militia chief Samir Geagen accused Syria of trying to shell Lebanon's Christians into submission after seven people were killed and 65 wounded in shelling and rocket exchanges in and around Beirut on Thursday.

Diplomatic triumph evades Syria, page 8

2 UNIFIL soldiers killed in attacks

BEIRUT (AP) — A Ghanaian soldier of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was fatally wounded Saturday in a shoot-out with militiamen and a Fijian trooper died of wounds, U.S. sources reported. The Ghanaian, a corporal, was one of two soldiers wounded in a 15-minute clash with fighters of the Shi'ite Amal militia in the South Lebanon zone patrolled by the nine-nation peace-keeping force. The sources said the Amal men opened up on a Ghanaian squad near their battalion headquarters in Kfar Dounine. A third Ghanaian was wounded in a firefight Friday when gunmen shot up a peace-keeping unit dismantling a militia checkpoint. The U.N. sources said the Fijian soldier died of shrapnel and gunshot wounds in a U.N. hospital. He was hit Friday when gunmen attacked the Fijian battalion's base at Qana. The U.N. sources said they will not identify either fatality until their next of kin have been informed.

Summit could be held in Sana'a

AMMAN (Petra) — Diplomatic sources in Amman said Saturday that an Arab summit called by the Arab League Council at its latest meeting in Tunis could be held in Sana'a, capital of North Yemen. The sources said Arab foreign ministers who attended the Tunis meeting have given their approval of the idea and that Arab League Secretary-General, Chadi Klibi will embark on a tour of Arab countries shortly to discuss the summit. According to the sources the date of the summit would be fixed in Mr. Klibi's talks with the Arab leaders.

Spanish parliament team due today

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Spanish parliamentary delegation is expected to arrive in Amman on Sunday. The delegation, headed by the first deputy speaker of the Spanish Lower House of Parliament (Congreso de los Diputados) will hold talks with Mr. Akel Al Fayez, speaker of the Lower House of Parliament and a number of senior officials. The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, did not give the name of the Spanish parliamentarians. The delegation will also tour Jordan's tourist sites.

Morocco quits U.N. talks on Africa

ADDISABABA (R) — Morocco failed to take its seat at a ministerial meeting of the U.N. Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) on Saturday in a row over the Western Sahara. The commission is meeting to finalize proposals for the economic recovery of Africa. The meeting is part of a special session of the United Nations General Assembly in May. The proposals, drawn up jointly with the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), refer to a military base in the Western Sahara and his country's withdrawal from the territory. Morocco, which has been fighting for control of the territory since 1975, said it would not attend the meeting.

Taiwan: No deal with China

TAIPEI (R) — President Chiang Kai-shek said Saturday that the Republic of China (Taiwan) would not accept a "one country, two systems" deal with the People's Republic of China (Mainland China). He said the Republic of China would not accept any arrangement that would result in the loss of its sovereignty. He said the Republic of China would not accept any arrangement that would result in the loss of its sovereignty.

Soviets, UAE discuss embassy opening

ABU DHABI (R) — Soviet diplomats discussed opening their new embassy in Abu Dhabi with officials of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Saturday, after the two countries established full diplomatic relations four months ago. The Emirates News Agency (WAM) reported. Moscow already had ties with Kuwait and last year established relations with Oman and the UAE in a major diplomatic breakthrough in the area.

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King, Sultan of Brunei begin talks

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN (Petra) — Official talks began here on Saturday between His Majesty King Hussein and His Majesty Sultan Sir Muda Hassan Bolkiah of Brunei. The talks of the two leaders dealt with brotherly relations between the two countries.

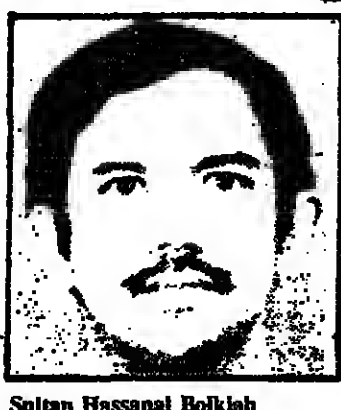
Earlier, the King and Her Majesty Queen Noor called on Sultan Hassan and Her Majesty Queen Salimah at the Sultanah Nooral Eman Palace and met with the members of the Brunei royal family.

Sultan Hassan and Queen Salimah hosted a dinner banquet in honour of King Hussein and Queen Noor on Saturday. The banquet was attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Minister of Supply, Industry and Trade



Rajai Al Muasher and Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib who are all accompanying the King in his visit.

The King and Queen arrived here early Saturday on a several-day official visit to the Sultanate of Brunei. They were received at the



Sultan Hassan Bolkiah

airport by Sultan Hassan and Queen Salimah as well as members of the royal family. Cabinet members as well as members of the diplomatic corps accredited to the Sultanate of Brunei were also present at the airport to receive the King and Queen.

The King and Queen then headed for a guest palace in a motorcade. They were accorded an official welcome ceremony at the guest palace, where the King and Queen will be staying during their visit to Brunei.

The King and Queen also paid a visit to Brunei's royal stables which house Arabian horses.

During the visit, the delegation accompanying the King will hold talks with officials of the Ministry of Development in Brunei and will deal with the topics related to developing economic and development relations between the two countries.

The King's visit to Brunei is in return to a state visit paid to Jordan by the Sultan in 1984. The King will also visit Indonesia after Brunei.

Palestinian-Amal clashes flare around Sabra and Shatila camps

BEIRUT (AP) — Palestinian fighters clashed with militiamen of the Shi'ite Amal movement on the outskirts of two Beirut refugee camps Saturday and police said one fighter was killed and nine were wounded.

Earlier, police said a time-bomb exploded during the night in a building housing the American centre in west Beirut, causing only material damage.

Anonymous callers claimed the attack for the Revolutionary Command-Omar Mukhtar Unit. They telephoned newspaper offices in west Beirut. "The callers said the attacks were 'in response to the American aggression against Libya' in the Gulf of Sirte this week. They pledged 'further strikes against American interests across the world.'"

The same group, previously unknown, on Friday claimed responsibility for firing three armour-piercing rockets at the

former U.S. consulate in Beirut. The three projectiles missed and no casualty or damage was reported.

The group's name suggests it is pro-Libyan. Omar Mukhtar was a Libyan nationalist who led an independence war against Italian colonial rule in the 1920s.

The rocket-propelled grenade and machine-gun exchanges around the camps erupted after unknown men hurled hand grenades at an Amal militia checkpoint on the northern edge of the Shatila camp shortly after midnight (2200 GMT Friday), police said.

The clashes spread to the adjacent Sabra camp in the morning after an Amal militiaman was killed. Police said the wounded were combatants from both sides.

Sabra was levelled and Shatila was devastated during a one-month war last May and June between Amal and Palestinian fighters. The battles left 595 killed

and more than 2,300 wounded. The camps have since been rebuilt.

In September, Amal and the Palestinians fought for one week around Bourj Al Barajneh, a sprawling camp south of Sabra and Shatila. Fifty-three people were killed and 250 wounded.

The three Beirut camps are home for an estimated 53,000 Palestinian refugees.

A Palestinian source, speaking from Shatila on condition of anonymity, said he did not expect the clash Saturday to develop into another round of all-out camps war.

An Amal militiaman outside Shatila said: "We and the Palestinians are brothers."

He told Associated Press photographer Aristotle Saricostas: "We don't want to fight each other. We (both) have one enemy and it is Israel in the south."

Iraqis step up naval, aerial attacks

BAHRAIN (AP) — Iraqi navy units and warplanes went into action against targets inside Iranian territory on Saturday, with war communiques announcing strikes at troop emplacements, military supply boats and a Libanese-registered supertanker south of the war zone.

Baghdad Radio quoted military spokesmen as reporting that Iraqi jets since sunrise have been striking at "vital enemy targets" deep inside Iranian territory and troops on the battlefield.

It said that at 7:40 a.m. Iraqi fighter-bombers raided an Iranian build-up opposite the Northern Iraqi Peninsula region, destroying 17 military vehicles and infantry emplacements.

Less than an hour later, the broadcast said, Iraqi military aircraft sank in the northern tip of the Gulf waters three boats carrying supplies to Iranian invasion forces in the Iraqi Fao area.

The air force jets at 10:05 a.m. attacked military targets in northwestern Iran, demolishing about 130 vehicles and equipment storage emplacements, the radio reported.

"While patrolling over northwestern Iranian regions, our jet fighters attacked and destroyed eight motor parked vehicles and a number of moving vehicles, at 10:08 a.m.," it said.

Citing a military spokesman, the Iraqi News Agency said later in the day that at 11:30 a.m. Iraqi jets intercepted, engaged and shot down a U.S.-built Iranian F-5 jet fighter over Iran's Al Rezayeh lake.

"The jet was sighted exploding in mid-air and crashing in a huge ball of flame," the agency said. "All our warplanes then returned safely to base."

Qadhafi contests U.S. version of Sirte clashes

LIBYAN LEADER Muammar Qadhafi has contested the U.S. version of military clashes in the Gulf of Sirte and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said Washington refused to ignore the Libyan leader as some American allies had urged.

In an speech at a Tripoli rally Friday night Colonel Qadhafi also warned Italy and Spain that they could be dragged into war by aiding the U.S. navy.

"We will impose sovereignty on the Gulf of Sirte with our blood," Col. Qadhafi said, referring to the Gulf where the U.S. Sixth Fleet clashed with Libyan forces on Monday and Tuesday.

"We allowed the Americans to come into our airspace so we could ambush them," said Col. Qadhafi, claiming victory in the confrontation. "The war with America will increase," he proclaimed.

During the rally, marking the withdrawal of British troops from Libya in 1970, a cow with "Reagan is a shepherd" written on its side was slaughtered before foreign television cameras.

Col. Qadhafi portrayed the clashes as a major Libyan victory. "We drove out the British and we have driven out the Americans... we will destroy the (U.S.) aircraft carriers whatever the losses," he said.

He said that in the event of war, Italy, Spain and "any other country in which the Sixth Fleet is based will be considered party to the war."

Col. Qadhafi, who was addressing thousands of people at Azizia barracks, called for immediate unity between Libya and neighbouring Algeria "in accordance with the Algerian charter endorsed by the Algerian people."

Col. Qadhafi said "existing unity" between Libya and Syria should be translated into a "binding constitutional unity" and he urged the people of Sudan to vote in forthcoming elections for a party supporting unity with Libya.

In Rome, Mr. Shultz, speaking at a news conference near the end

of a four-nation European tour, refused to criticize Italy, the only NATO ally to criticize publicly the recent U.S. exercises in the Gulf of Sirte.

"There are differences here as elsewhere, on what are the right tactics to deal with Qadhafi," he said.

Mr. Shultz emphasised instead that Italy agreed the Gulf of Sirte was international waters.

U.S. officials, who asked not to be identified, said that in private Mr. Shultz appeared more irritated by the Italian criticism than he acknowledged in public.

But they believed Mr. Shultz was prepared to minimise differences with an important ally because relations were getting back to normal after a major row last year when Rome released the man alleged to have masterminded the hijacking of the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro.

Mr. Shultz said the U.S. exercises in the Gulf of Sirte had dominated his talks with Italian President Francesco Cossiga, Prime Minister Bettino Craxi and Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti.

Meanwhile, port sources in Syracuse, Sicily, were quoted by Reuters as saying about 20 U.S. Sixth Fleet warships, including two aircraft carriers, anchored off southern Sicily on Saturday.

U.S. deplores Libyan aid to Sudan, page 2

W.Germans launch nationwide anti-nuclear demonstrations

WACKERSDORF, West Germany (AP) — Police said they arrested 280 anti-nuclear militants and seized a cache of crude weapons on Saturday, as Easter demonstrations against nuclear power and arms began nationwide.

The arrested activists were plotting to charge the construction site of the Wackersdorf nuclear waste-recycling plant on Monday and tear down the perimeter fence, police said.

Shultz: U.S. wants to revive Mideast peace process

ROME (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz told Egypt on Saturday that Washington was wracking its brains on how it could play a constructive role on getting the stalled Middle East peace back on track, a senior U.S. official said.

The official, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters Mr. Shultz told Egyptian Foreign Minister Hosni Mubarak of Washington's concern over the collapse of efforts by King Hussein to get talks underway.

Washington blames the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) for the breakdown while the PLO says it resulted from U.S. intransigence.

"We are wracking our brains all the time on how we can be constructive," the official quoted Mr. Shultz as saying.

Mr. Shultz also expressed the hope that talks between Israel and Egypt on the disputed territory of Gaza would be resolved soon, he said.

The official said Mr. Shultz told Mr. Abdul Meguid "that relations between Egypt and Israel are a major building block of the Middle East peace process."

The official also said the two men had exchanged letters. Mr. Shultz was handed a letter from President Hosni Mubarak, which the official said dealt with a variety of economic reforms undertaken by Egypt.

Mr. Shultz gave Mr. Abdul Meguid a letter for Mr. Mubarak dealing with a proposed visit to Cairo next month by U.S. Agency for International Development Director Peter McPherson to take a close look at the Egyptian economy.

Meanwhile, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said in an interview published in Kuwait he was ready to accept United Nations Resolution 242, given certain guarantees.

Mr. Arafat told Al Anba newspaper he could accept Resolution 242 "if the five powers in the Security Council guarantee the right of (Palestinian) self-determination according to all decisions approved by the United Nations before (242)."

PLO rejects Moroccan plan

Mr. Arafat rejected as futile a proposal by King Hassan II of Morocco to arrange a summit conference between Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres and a chosen Arab head of state to define Mideast peace frameworks.

Mr. Arafat said the king's offer "is merely a proposal, and not all proposals are applicable."

Asked about the recent decision by King Hussein to suspend political coordination with the PLO leadership, Mr. Arafat said: "We have not reached a dead end with Jordan. Rather, the PLO will pursue its quest for an independent Palestinian state which would be confederated with Jordan."



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan addresses a meeting on Saturday in Zarqa during which development plans for the governorate in the next five years were reviewed (Petra photo)

Regent emphasises potential of Zarqa as major industrial centre

Governorate meeting hears five-year proposals

ZARQA (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, has called on the industrial and commercial sectors in Zarqa Governorate to work out a joint strategy within six months aimed at transforming Zarqa into a distinguished industrial centre, and urged concerned authorities to set up a work team to follow up the implementation of the strategy.

Prince Hassan was addressing a meeting at the Zarqa Chamber of Commerce to review a five-year plan for developing Zarqa Governorate. He said that Zarqa was eligible to become the most important centre for industry and maintenance, operations in the Kingdom, and as a centre that continues to attract large population.

Referring to the Zarqa five-

year plan, Prince Hassan said that it was wide-ranging and ambitious and provides for developing all sectors, but priorities should be defined if proper economic and social development over the coming five years is to be fulfilled.

Prince Hassan paid tribute to the Zarqa Chamber of Commerce whose activities, he said, represents some 26 per cent of the total commercial activities in the Kingdom and in 1977 won an award for its distinguished role.

The creation of the Golden Jubilee Industrial Zone in Zarqa, Prince Hassan said, came into being as a result of Jordanian industrialists' initiatives. The project should be backed and supported, he said.

Prince Hassan also said Zarqa's projects in the education sector

are included in an overall plan being worked out for the whole Kingdom. He said Zarqa was expanding continuously and maps for organising expansion in the eastern regions of the city will be provided in the coming months. Prince Hassan also referred to Zarqa as a city which embodies a good number of institutions run by the Jordanian Armed Forces.

Minister of Planning Abdullah Nsour also spoke at the meeting pointing out a number of errors in statistics conducted on Zarqa region and also commented on a report on the water and agriculture sectors which, he said, lacked any mention of the problem of pollution and the inability of stock breeders and farmers to market

(Continued on page 5)

Gorbachev offers early European summit with Reagan on test ban

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev on Saturday offered to meet U.S. President Ronald Reagan as soon as possible to negotiate a world nuclear test ban.

In a speech on Soviet Television, he also said that Moscow's unilateral test moratorium would continue after March 31 until the next U.S. explosion.

Mr. Gorbachev said the Soviet Union attached enormous significance to negotiating a test ban with the United States and with other nuclear powers.

"I am ready to meet President Reagan as soon as possible in London or Rome, or in any other European capital that will agree to receive us," in order to reach agreement on this question," he said.

The two superpower leaders had agreed at their first meeting last November in Geneva that their next summit, some time this year, should be in the United States.

Mr. Gorbachev did not mention the planned summit in the United States in his 21-minute address.

The Soviet leader denounced the latest U.S. test, held last Saturday, saying the Reagan administration had placed the interests of "military-industrial circles" above those of the world.

"The manner in which this is done is also quite important: pointedly, arrogantly and with disregard for the opinion of the world community," he said. "There is neither a sense of realism nor of responsibility."

Moscow announced its unilateral testing ban last July and extended it to the end of March. Two weeks ago Mr. Gorbachev offered to extend it until the next U.S. explosion, and made clear on Saturday, that offer still stood, despite the March 22 test in Nevada.

"We are giving the U.S. administration a chance to take a responsible decision — to end nuclear explosions," he said. "Failing this, the Soviet Union will resume testing."

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BANK OF JORDAN

Announces the opening of a new branch at First Circle, Jabal Amman

We are pleased to announce to the public the opening of our new branch at First Circle, Jabal Amman (previous premises of the Chase Manhattan Bank) as from Saturday April 5, 1986. In addition to regular banking hours, the branch will be open daily between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. (except Fridays and public holidays)

The new branch will provide customers with all banking services. We welcome the opening of accounts in both Jordanian Dinars and foreign currency. We welcome the opening of demand, saving and time deposit accounts in all currencies. All customers with saving deposit accounts will automatically receive free insurance coverage.

We sincerely welcome you as customers of the Bank of Jordan and we assure you of our best and most efficient banking services.

BANK OF JORDAN
Jabal Amman Branch, First Circle, Jabal Amman, Amman, Jordan
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U.S. deplores Libyan military aid to Sudan

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. State Department has said Sudan had been very unwise in accepting Libyan military aid and hoped Khartoum would reconsider ties with Tripoli, which Washington accuses of backing terrorism and subversion.

State Department spokesman Charles Redman told reporters at a news briefing that Sudan early this month asked Libya for military help in fighting Ethiopian-backed rebels in southern Sudan and that Libya had obliged by sending bombers.

"We believe it to have been most unwise to have permitted the Libyans to become involved militarily," he said, adding that bombing raids on rebel strongholds were likely to backfire and increase support for the guerrillas.

A 45-ship U.S. navy task force clashed with Libyan forces earlier this week while on an exercise to assert navigation rights in the Gulf of Sirte. Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi claims the gulf as sovereign territory but Washington insists the waters are international.

U.S. forces shot up several Libyan patrol boats and twice hit a radar missile site after it was attacked by Libyan missiles, which missed their targets, officials said.

Washington has repeatedly accused Col. Qadhafi of seeking to subvert the pro-Western government of neighbouring Chad and to meddle in Sudan, which had been a close U.S. ally until it was ousted after a coup last year ousted President Jaafar Numeiri.

Under the new aid programme, two Soviet-built Tupolev-22 bombers, on loan from Libya, have been carrying out the attacks on Sudanese rebels, Western diplomats said.

Mr. Redman said Friday about \$100 million in U.S. aid earmarked for Sudan had been held up due to debt repayment problems. Washington hoped a new government due to take power after April elections will weigh carefully the implications of its present arrangement for Libyan assistance.

Mr. Redman said Libya had been supplying arms to the Sudanese rebels until recently and deemed the new aid to Sudan "unprincipled."

The bombing raids on their former associates should have a message for those who rely on the Libyans for support.

Following the U.S.-Libyan naval confrontation, which ended Thursday when American ships finished their exercise, Libya has threatened to attack U.S. targets worldwide.

Mr. Redman said the State Department had advised a number of congressmen to reconsider plans to travel to the Middle East during the current congressional Easter recess.

Two Senate Democrats, Gary Hart of Colorado and Bennett Johnson of Louisiana, said they had postponed Middle East trips due to the danger of attacks.

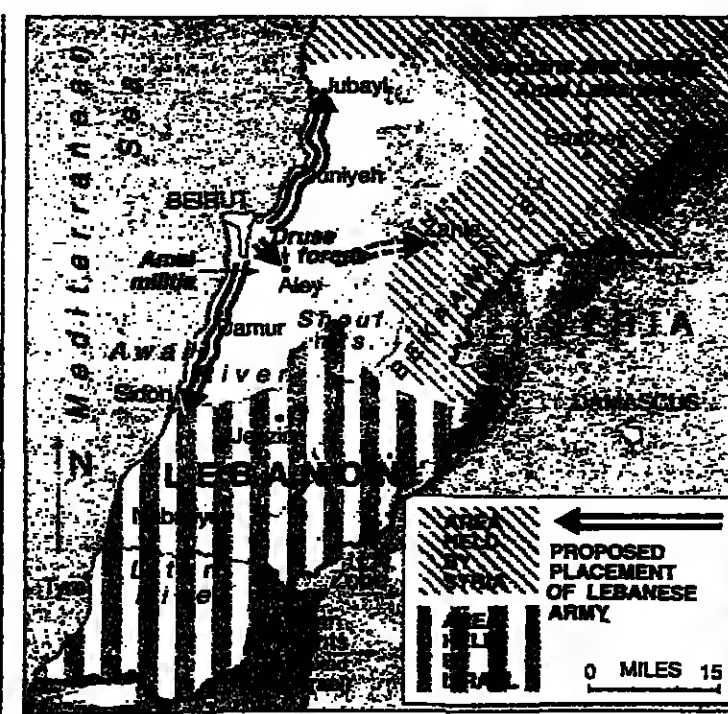
At an earlier briefing, a senior State Department legal expert defended the legality of the U.S. naval action in the Gulf of Sirte.

The official, who spoke on condition that he not be identified, said Washington had been filing diplomatic protests against Libya's "invalid" claim but that protests alone were not adequate.

U.S. ships must challenge Col. Qadhafi's claim, he said.

"Under international law, an invalid claim can validate itself if it is widely acquiesced in," he said. Col. Qadhafi first claimed the gulf in 1973, and since then U.S. naval forces have sailed into the area repeatedly.

Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger said Thursday U.S. ships would return periodically to assert its right to navigate in the gulf.



'Tanker war' is just a fact of life in Gulf

By Stephen Fidler
Reuters

BAHRAIN — Missiles have ripped into more than 110 merchant ships in the Gulf in the last two years, but the "tanker war" between Iran and Iraq has become just another uncomfortable fact of life.

Two years ago, the Greek tanker Fulkon L carrying crude oil from Kuwait suffered a mysterious blast and an explosion sank a South Korean supply ship off Saudi Arabia.

After initial confusion, it became clear the ships had been hit by Exocet missiles fired from French-built Super Etendard warplanes newly delivered to Iraq.

The off-target attacks, meant for Iran's oil traffic, marked the start of the "tanker war," which for a time sent shudders through the worlds of shipping and oil and beyond.

The Iraqi strikes prompted attacks from Iranian jets on ships using the ports of the oil-producing Arab states of the western Gulf, supporters of Iraq in the conflict.

Saudi jets, protecting shipping lanes in the northern Gulf, downed in June at least one Iranian Phantom in a dogfight 50 miles from the Arabian mainland. Journalists flocked to Bahrain to cover the action, which it was said, threatened a sixth of the non-Communist world's oil.

Since then more than 110 ships have been hit, most of them tankers, but the initial panic has not yet been justified. "People don't like it but they have learned to live with it," said one shipping agent in the Gulf.

Merchant ships had been hit prior to the Falkland Islands in the war, now in its sixth year, but they were in the extreme north of the waterway.

A Lloyds of London underwriter, G.M. Loveday of Mark Loveday Underwriting Agencies, said marine insurers paid out \$600 million until the end of 1983 on Gulf war claims. And that does not count the more than 20 ships hit this year.

But trade still goes on. "Even in responsible insurance markets, there exists a competitive element which may continue to offer acceptable premiums to enable international trade to continue," Mr. Loveday told Reuters in Baghdad last week.

Shipping patterns have changed in the last two years, however. Iraqi attacks came close to choking off oil shipments from the main Iranian oil terminal of Kharg Island, on which Iran depends for more than 90 per cent of its export earnings, because insurance rates spiralled.

As a result, it offered its own concessionary insurance rates, and then set up a makeshift terminal at Sirri Island in the southern Gulf using super tankers as storage, and chartering and buying other ships to shuttle oil from Kharg to Sirri.

In a glutted market for oil tankers, there has been no shortage of owners willing to risk the sacrifice of their ships for lucrative returns on the Kharg to Sirri run.

Crews too are lured by high wages. The move has been mostly successful, although shipments are sometimes subject to delays when Iraqi attacks intensify.

On the other side of the Gulf, many ships will travel through a zone east of Qatar only at night. Those which travel in daylight hours risk being attacked by Iranian aircraft.

Shipping officials said they attack in daylight, not because they are incapable of attacking at night, but because they want to know what they are hitting. American, British and French warships, for example, are frequent visitors.

Spotter planes invariably precede an Iranian attack, but shipping officials say Iran has more than once shot itself in the foot, hitting ships carrying Iranian cargoes.

Higher insurance rates generally in the waterway have deterred some ship owners from sending vessels into the Gulf, while some seamen's unions, such as the Japanese, have agreements which mean they do not venture into risky waters.

Diplomatic triumph still evades Syria 3 months after peace pact

By G.G. Labelle
Associated Press

DAMASCUS — Instead of a diplomatic triumph for Syria, neighbouring Lebanon is turning out to be more of a headache than it was for other nations that struggled to bring order to the chaos.

Three months after an agreement to end Lebanon's long civil war was trumpeted in Damascus, the festering Lebanon conflict is no nearer an end. The growing strength of fundamentalist radicals in Muslim west Beirut further threatens Syrian designs for Lebanese stability.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, in an interview with the French newspaper Liberation earlier this month, said, "We intervened in the past to stop fighting among people. In the future, we shall not intervene to stop fighting if they will not come to an agreement."

He added that Syria had supported Lebanon's Falangist President, Amin Gemayel, and would continue to do so if he serves as a conciliator in the conflict.

"Otherwise," Mr. Assad said,

"we will be spectators." The root of Syria's problem in Lebanon, according to diplomats interviewed, is that its goals there run counter to those of its ally, Iran.

The diplomats, who spoke on condition they not be identified, said Syria wants to stabilise Lebanon and be recognised as a regional power that must be consulted on Middle East issues.

Iran, on the other hand, is backing the Islamic fundamentalist movement Hezbollah, or "Party of God," which wants to turn Lebanon into an Islamic Republic.

"The Iranians are working very hard to bring Islamic fundamentalism to Lebanon," one diplomat said. "The Syrians are worried."

Indeed, fighting has broken out between the Syrian-backed Lebanese Communist Party militia and the Hezbollah.

There also are reports of new arms being given to the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) of Druze leader Walid Jumblatt, whose militia, one diplomat in Damascus said, was a likely tool for Syria in any effort to squelch

Hezbollah. "The Syrians expect Amal and the PSP to solve the problem, to co-opt or destroy Hezbollah," the diplomat said.

Amal is the Lebanese Shi'ite militia headed by Syrian ally Nabih Berri.

Another diplomat noted that the Syrian-Iranian ties are further strained over oil.

Iran is having difficulty making its promised oil deliveries to Syria because Iraq's air attacks in the Gulf have hit Iranian export facilities. At the same time, Syria cannot afford to pay for that part of the Iranian oil it was guaranteed at reduced prices.

Also straining ties, the diplomats say, are kidnappings of Westerners in Beirut by Iranian-backed Shi'ite militias.

"The drawback to Syria's alliance with Iran is the French thing," said one diplomat, saying the kidnapping of French nationals had upset Syria's traditional alliance with France.

As many as eight French and six American hostages are believed held by Iranian-backed Shi'ite Muslim groups in Lebanon.

Sudanese officers submit collective resignation

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — Senior police officers have submitted a collective resignation over low pay and working conditions, a cabinet minister was quoted Saturday as saying.

Interior Minister Gen. Abbas Medani, who controls the police, told the state-owned newspaper Al Sahafa the resigning officers want pay increases to bring their salaries closer to those of army officers. They also demanded that the government provide them with better equipment, he said.

The newspaper said the collective resignation involved all police officers above the rank of colonel, including the acting chief of national police and the Khartoum commander. It did not say whether they had fixed a date for the resignation to become effective.

Al Sahafa said an unspecified number of police officers of middle and lower ranks also tendered resignations individually to their superior officers over the same grievances. They gave the government until Sunday to meet their demands, the newspaper said.

It said the mass resignation by the senior officers was handed to Gen. Medani after the cabinet rejected the police demands at a meeting last Wednesday.

Gen. Medani said he had consulted with Premier Al Gazouli Dafaallah on the resignations and that they had agreed on the need to reconsider the cabinet decision.

Appearing to sympathise with the protesters, Gen. Medani said they had "objective reasons" for their move as the cabinet rejection "made them lose credibility with their subordinates."

OAU bid for Chad peace talks collapses

BRAZZAVILLE (R) — The problem of arranging a meeting between two rival warlords, once friends and both former presidents, on Saturday wrecked yet another attempt to end 20 years of fighting in Chad.

Official sources said Senegal President Abdou Diouf, chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), who was to have mediated at peace talks on Saturday, had left Brazzaville and Chad President Hissene Habre, who arrived on Thursday, was to leave for N'Djamena later in the day.

Mr. Diouf left after news reached Brazzaville that Chad's main rebel leader, former President Goukouni Oueddei, would not attend talks with Mr. Habre due to be held in the remote Congolese town of Loundou.

The rebel Transitional Government of National Union (GUNT) said Mr. Goukouni would not go to Chad and it did not accept Mr. Habre's legitimacy — an apparent reference to the fact that Mr. Habre, who is recognised by the OAU, was well-

comed by Congolese President Denis Sassou Nguesso.

Mr. Goukouni was due to be met on arrival by Congo's Prime Minister Ange Edouard Poungui, informed sources said.

Similar rows over the so-called legitimacy question wrecked two earlier attempts to end the conflict in January 1984 at OAU headquarters in Addis Ababa and in October the same year in Brazzaville.

The Addis Ababa meeting did not get off the ground after Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam went to the airport to greet Mr. Goukouni. Mr. Habre then refused to attend.

In a statement released early on Saturday, Congolese Foreign Minister Antoine Ndinga Oba said Mr. Diouf and Mr. Sassou Nguesso praised Mr. Habre's decision to come to Chad but "deplored the absence of Goukouni Oueddei despite commitments to participate in the meeting without prior conditions."

Mr. Habre and Mr. Goukouni were once friends and Chadians who know both men say they still admire each other.

Family of Beirut hostage holds prayer gathering

JOLIET, Illinois (AP) — About 200 family members and friends of the Rev. Lawrence Martin Jenco attended a prayer gathering Friday, the 44th day the Roman Catholic priest has been held in captivity in Lebanon.

Gov. James Thompson had declared the day Fr. Jenco Day in Illinois, and Lt. Gov. George Ryan attended the observance in front of the Will County Courthouse.

The Rev. Frank Franceschini, a nephew of Fr. Jenco, spoke of the sacrifice of Fr. Jenco and the five other Americans held hostage in Lebanon. He called their plight "a living crucifixion as they endure the rigours of bondage and its uncertainties in total powerlessness."

Fr. Jenco, 51, was abducted on Jan. 8, 1983, in Beirut when eight gunmen overtook his chauffeur-driven car.

Kuwait gets offers of military support

By Rory Channing
Reuters

KUWAIT — Kuwait has been bolstered by offers of military support since Iran has pushed the protracted Gulf war within sight of its border.

Britain, the former imperial power which once held away over Kuwait, this week promised military aid if the Iran-Iraq conflict, now in its sixth year, spilled across the border.

Saudi Arabia, the richest and most powerful of the oil-producing states in the Arabian peninsula, also pledged support for Kuwait against any Iranian aggression.

Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah flew to Saudi Arabia last week for talks with King Fahd and diplomats interpreted the visit as a fresh sign of concern.

Britain's offer of help came from Junior Foreign Office Minister Timothy Renton on a visit to the Gulf.

"Kuwait knows that were she to ask for specific military equipment... or military assistance... we would consider such a request quickly and sympathetically," he declared.

The offer evoked memories of a British airlift of troops in 1961 to protect Kuwait when the former British protectorate at the head of the Gulf gained independence.

Kuwait has been on a state of military alert since Iran, in a fresh offensive to try to break the stalemate in the war, sent troops across the Shatt Al Arab waterway last month to gain a foothold on the Fao Peninsula of southern Iraq.

The troops pushed to within just a few kilometres of the border, some 80 kilometres from Kuwait City.

Iran has insisted it has no intention of taking the war beyond Iraq. But at the same time it has threatened reprisals against states supporting Iraq.

Tehran, relying on oil to finance the war, accused Kuwait and Saudi Arabia of precipitating a plunge in oil prices with excessive production.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Kuwait's ability to counter an onslaught is limited despite huge purchases over the past decade of sophisticated military hardware, mainly to bolster air defences.

The armed forces number only 12,000 out of a population of 1.7 million.

They have been described by diplomats as a "trip wire" — their main role being to give Kuwait time to mobilise world opinion and diplomatic pressure against any would-be aggressor.

A joint emergency "Peninsula Shield" force, set up with its allies

in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and stationed in Saudi Arabia, is also on standby.

The GCC — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates — had agreed any "overspill" attack against one member would be viewed as an assault on all, a senior Qatari official said last week.

While needing military support, Kuwait opposes involving any big powers in tipping the military balance and has launched a sustained diplomatic drive to defuse the crisis.

But diplomats say there are few diplomatic options left since Iran rebuffed a United Nations resolution last month calling for a ceasefire, an end to hostilities and withdrawal of forces to internationally-recognised borders.

The United States issued a stern warning to Iran and, in an apparent show of support for Gulf Arab states, announced Vice President George Bush would visit the region next month.

"The purpose of his trip will be to demonstrate U.S. interest in security in the area," the White House said. Mr. Bush will visit Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain and North Yemen.

Mr. Renton suggested mediation by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar offered the best hope to end the war.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
16:00	Koran
16:55	Live transmission from Bahrain of Soccer match: Iraq vs. Saudi Arabia
19:30	Local Programme on the occasion of the Land Day
20:00	Arabic Series
21:30	Local Programme
22:00	Local Variety Programme
22:30	News Summary in Arabic
23:10	Varieties contd.
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Piano — Les oeuvres de Beethoven
18:30	Eastern Mass Vatican via Satellite
19:00	News in French
19:15	French Varieties
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Insight
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Me and My Girl
21:10	End of Empire (last episode)
22:00	News in English
22:30	American Short Story
RADIO JORDAN	
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07:00	Light Music
07:30	News
08:00	Morning Show
08:30	News Summary
09:00	Pop Session
09:30	News Summary
10:00	Pop Session Contd.
10:30	News Summary
11:00	Pop Session Contd.
11:30	News Bulletin
12:00	News Bulletin
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22:30	News Bulletin

WHAT'S GOING ON	
TODAY'S EVENTS	
EXHIBITIONS	
* An art exhibition by Dr. Mahmoud Sadeq at the Jordan National Gallery (until March 30).	
* A handicraft exhibition by the Soviet Republic of Belarussia at the Royal Cultural Centre (until March 30).	
* An exhibition with originals about the work of the German Artist Christian Schud at the Goethe Institute (until April 3).	
* An art exhibition by Mohammed Abu Zuhair at the Housing Bank Complex Gallery.	
* A book exhibition at Mr. N. University in Karak (until April 3).	
PLAY	
* An Arabic play for children entitled: "Abu Al Fawares Foe Ka's Al Shams" daily at 10:30 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre (until March 31).	
BALLET	
* Ballet "Rambert", a famous British dance troupe, will perform at 8:00 p.m. today at the Royal Cultural Centre.	
CULTURAL CENTRES	
Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267	
American Centre Tel. 643710	
British Council Tel. 6314778	
French Cultural Centre Tel. 637009	
Goethe Institute Tel. 641993	
Soviet Cultural Centre Tel. 642003	
Spanish Cultural Centre Tel. 624049	
Turkish Cultural Centre Tel. 639777	
Haya Arts Centre Tel. 661595	
Hawana Youth City Tel. 661782	
Y.W.C.A. Tel. 662421	
Amman Municipal Library Tel. 637111	
University of Jordan Library Tel. 843555	
MUSEUMS	
Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics	

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia information department at the International Airport, tel. (08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

02:30	Bucharest (RO)
03:00	Berlin, Lennart (DE)
03:30	Kuwait (KU)
04:00	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (UAE)
04:30	Jeddah (SA)
05:00	Cairo (EG)
05:30	Amman (JO)
06:00	Doha, Bahrain (Qatar)
06:30	Dhahran, Riyadh (SA)
07:00	Istanbul (TR)
07:30	Kuwait (KU)
08:00	Tripoli, Lebanon (LE)
08:30	Brussels (BE)
09:00	Baghdad (IQ)
09:30	Cairo (EG)
10:00	Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (US)
10:30	New York, Amsterdam (NL)
11:00	Madrid, Geneva (FR)
11:30	Paris, Geneva (FR)
12:00	Athens, Damascus (GR)
12:30	Frankfurt (FR)
13:00	Frankfurt (FR)
13:30	London (UK)
14:00	Cairo (EG)
14:30	Baghdad (IQ)

DEPARTURES

03:30	Bucharest (RO)
04:00	Damascus, Frankfurt (LE)
04:30	Damascus, Paris (AF)
05:00	Beirut (LE)
05:30	Damascus, Rome (AF)
06:00	Larnaca, Berlin (CZ)
06:30	Tunis, Casablanca (TUN)
07:00	Vienna, New York (US)
07:30	Athens (GR)
08:00	Riyadh, Dhahran (SA)
08:30	Aqaba, Cairo (EG)
09:00	Dhahran (KU)
09:30	Kuwait (KU)
10:00	Larnaca, Tripoli (LE)
10:30	Baghdad (IQ)
11:00	Kuwait (KU)
11:30	Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (UAE)
12:00	Cairo (EG)
12:30	Dubai, Muscat (UAE)

MARITIME TRAFFIC

Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port:

20:45	Baghdad (RJ)
21:00	FL Koneosyah
21:50	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
21:55	Baghdad, London (BA)
22:50	Bangkok (RJ)
00:25	Cairo (MS)

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WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy to cloudy, with chance for scattered showers. Winds will be northeasterly moderate. A decrease in temperature is expected. In Aqaba, it will be hazy and partly cloudy, with southeasterly fresh wind and rough sea.

Amman	12/21
Aqaba	14/28
Damascus	12/23
Jordan Valley	13/27

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 27, Aqaba 30.7, Hama 31 readings: Amman 17 per cent, Aqaba 24 per cent.

MONEY EXCHANGE

Saturday rates

Local sell-buy rates in fits

Belgian franc	74.4 / 75.2
Dutch guilder	134.7 / 137.1
French franc	49.5 / 50.2
Italian lire	22.4 / 22.7
Japanese yen (for 100)	195.9 / 199.6
Swedish crown	47.1 / 48.9
Swiss franc	181.6 / 184.6
U.S. sterling pound	572.1 / 573.1
U.S. dollar	354.3 / 358.2
W. German mark	152.1 / 154.6

Delegation to meet Jordanian expatriates in GCC states

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian delegation will make a tour of member countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) on April 8 to meet with Jordanian expatriates in order to find out their views in preparation for holding the second Jordanian expatriates conference this summer, Minister of Labour and Social Development Khalid Al Haj Hassan announced Saturday.

He said that the delegation members will acquaint themselves with the conditions of expatriates, their requests and their proposals to be submitted to the coming conference. Jordan maintains strong relations with GCC countries and is concerned about the future of Jordanians employed there, the minister said.

The delegation's visit, he added, coincides with reports about GCC

countries plans to lay off workers of different nationalities due to the current difficult economic and financial circumstances in the Gulf. The delegation will also hold meetings with GCC officials to discuss this situation, the minister said.

Mr. Haj Hassan said that in response to demands and proposals submitted to the first expatriates conference, his ministry is taking constitutional steps to allow Jordanians to hold dual nationality. The second conference, expected to open on July 14, will be attended by expatriates employed in GCC and other countries.

Members of the delegation will include representatives of the Ministries of Interior, Finance and Customs, Foreign Affairs, Planning, Industry and Trade and Labour.

Deportees relate their experiences, treatment in Israeli hands

By Sana Attieh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Land Day, March 30, has become a national day for all Palestinian Arabs in the occupied territories to express their steadfastness in Palestine," says Dr. Azmi Al Shu'abi, a Palestinian dentist from Birah who was deported from the West Bank by the Israeli occupation authorities two months ago. He says that all schools and universities are closed for four days in order to prevent students from expressing their opposition to the Israeli occupation of Arab lands.

Dr. Shu'abi, who was also a member of the Birah municipal council, was arrested by the Israeli authorities on Oct. 27, 1985 accused of instigating the Palestinian people against the Israeli occupation forces and he was considered "dangerous to the national security." After spending two months in June Prison near Nablus, he was deported. Mr. Ali Abu Al Hilal, a labourer in an aluminium company in Ramallah and member of the Executive Committee of the General Workers Union in the West Bank, was arrested on the same day on the same charges and was also deported at the same time as Dr. Shu'abi.

The two men spoke to the Jordan Times about their experiences with the Israeli authorities and about the difficulties facing the Palestinians under Israeli occupation. There was a lot of resistance during last year regarding the number of people involved and the variety of ways they expressed their opposition to Israel, said Dr. Shu'abi. "There were many arrests and newspapers and printing presses, such as Al-Darh newspaper and Manar Press, were closed down," he added. Mr. Hilal says that many labourers and administrators from unions were arrested. He said: "There was a military order to prevent the union's conference in July 1985 being held in Jerusalem. The participants in the conference and Israeli authorities clashed and there were beatings and arrests."

Two choices

Mr. Hilal, whose wife has still not yet obtained a pass from the Israeli authorities to come to Jordan to see her husband, said that Israel aims to eradicate the Palestinian identity. "They try to put so much pressure on the Palestinians by provocative and arbitrary measures. So the Palestinians are left with two choices: Either to give up completely to the authorities, which is what the Israelis want, or to resist occupation, and make sacrifices for the rights and identity of the Palestinian people. Most people have chosen the latter," he commented.

Dr. Shu'abi said that now he has lost his home in Birah, his family, his clinic which took him 15 years to build, his patients, and everything he has, by being deported from his homeland. He commented that the Israelis give a false image of their democracy through the media. "We expressed our opinions and spoke out against the Israeli occupation and they are punishing us for it. And then they claim they want peace but that is only to mislead public opinion," Dr. Shu'abi said.

The two men said that they will try to return to the West Bank with the help of human rights organisations around the world. In the meantime, Dr. Shu'abi will have to start from scratch and try to open his own clinic here. Mr. Hilal is still trying to find a job. Mr. Hilal said: "Israeli pressure on the Palestinians in the occupied territories will not make them give up (to the authorities) because our people will not accept to live in humiliation, but in honour. The people will keep resisting the Israeli policies and occupation, despite the dangers involved. The road for us is long and rough and we must sacrifice so much, but eventually we will reach our goal."



Dr. Azmi Al Shu'abi



Ali Abu Al Hilal

Miners' unions hold symposium on training courses for workers

AMMAN (Petra) — Phosphates and potash together from the backbone of Jordan's economy thanks to the diligence of workers and the high standard of technicians employed by the Jordan Phosphates Mines Company (JPMC) and the Arab Potash Company (APC). JPMC Director General Wasef Azar said here Saturday.

Mr. Azar was addressing the opening session of a 10-day symposium on workers' training which is being attended by leaders of miners unions in Jordan and Egypt. Mr. Azar paid tribute to the mine workers for their contributions, to the economy and he

thanked the workers' leaders for their active participation in running the phosphates mines in Jordan and helping to promote the mining industry.

Mr. Azar underlined the importance of training workers and providing them with further education. "Production and all matters related to mining, The secretary general of the JPMC and APC workers' unions made a speech underlining the importance of training courses and symposiums for workers in mining.

The 19 participants will hear lectures on settling labour disputes, and mining issues and will make a tour of mines in Jordan.

Land Day to be observed with public rally today

Israeli authorities on alert as Palestinians under occupation expected to protest confiscation of land

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — People in Jordan and the occupied territories will observe the anniversary of Land and Al Aqsa Day today with public rallies and speeches denouncing the Israeli occupation of Arab territories. These celebrations are aimed at enhancing the steadfastness of Palestinians living under Israeli occupation.

In Jordan, the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs is organising a public rally at the Palace of Culture. Speaking at this event will be Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Khayyat, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Hazem Nus-eibeh, Palestine National Council (PNC) Speaker Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sa'eh and Senate members Walid Salah and Ali Hassan Odeh.

In the occupied territories, Land Day is marked by a general strike and demonstrations in the main cities and population centres. The anniversary has been regularly marked since 1976.

Last year, Palestinians announced a general strike which reportedly paralysed occupied Jerusalem. Palestinian demonstrators also clashed with Israeli occupation forces who opened fire injuring several protesters.

The Palestine Liberation Org-

anisation (PLO) office in Amman issued a statement on this occasion in which it hailed the steadfastness of Palestinians in the occupied territories and their adherence to their legitimate rights and their confrontation of Israeli settlement policies and persecution of Palestinians living under occupation.

Reports reaching here from the occupied territories said Israeli troops were on the alert against Palestinian resistance on Land Day which falls on Easter Day this year and which remembers six Arabs who died while protesting Israeli confiscation of their land in Galilee 10 years ago.

The Progressive List for Peace, an Arab-Jewish peace group, has called for a strike to demand that the army return a large part of land confiscated in Galilee and to show opposition to laws restricting construction by Palestinians.

Last week, reports reaching here said that the Israeli occu-

upation authorities arrested "scores of Palestinians" who were "suspected" of belonging to Palestinian resistance groups.

The Israeli authorities traditionally make random arrests of active Palestinians before occasions such as Land Day in an attempt to abort demonstrations and protests. Last year, demonstrations took place despite these "preemptive arrests."

In Nablus, classes at the Najah University and schools in the city are usually boycotted by students while shops shut their doors in protest against the Israeli occupation.

Every year since 1976, Palestinian citizens have been organising a massive march through the streets of Taybeh in the Muthalat area towards the Martyr's Memorial where they lay wreaths to commemorate the Palestinian martyrs who were shot by Israeli forces in 1976. The march then proceeds to the town's centre where public rallies are held to mark the occasion. This year, heads of Arab municipal councils are again expected to take part in the public rallies.

Land Day is marked every year to remind the world of the continuing Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories in defiance of international law and the basic principles of human rights.

Jordan, UAE open talks on air transport

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Saturday opened discussions on joint cooperation in the area of air transport.

Under 1972-agreement signed between the civil aviation authorities of both countries, Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline and Gulf Air, have been accredited as the national carriers for the two countries. The UAE civil aviation authorities have presented the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) in Jordan with a request to operate a third national carrier, a UAE always company, along with Alia and Gulf Air.

Congress holds course on latest dental techniques

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An intensified course on modern advancements in dentistry was held Saturday within the activities of the fifth national dental congress which concluded its meetings on Friday with a number of recommendations.

The congress, organised by the Jordan Dentists Association (JDA), dealt with recent research on dentistry as well as several local dentistry-related issues.

Opening the course, Yarmouk University President Adnan Badran stressed the importance of up to date research and studies in dentistry-related sciences in order

to keep abreast with latest developments and to improve the standard of the profession.

Taking part in the one-day-course, held at the Yarmouk University Liaison Office, are dentists representing the private sector, the Ministry of Health, the Royal Medical Services and under graduates at the Faculties of Dentistry at the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University. A number of dentists from Syria and Egypt also attended the course.

The recommendations issued after the two-day congress called for the introduction of national medical insurance and adopting new ways to upgrade dentistry in the Kingdom.

NEWS IN BRIEF

World Bank delegation visits Mu'ta

KARAK (Petra) — A World Bank team of educational planning experts Saturday paid a visit to Mu'ta University and were briefed by the university's president, Dr. Ali Mahabzah, on its goals, educational programmes and future plans. The delegation also toured the university's sections and installations.

Public security forces find foetus

AMMAN (J.T.) — Public Security personnel in Al Ghweir Riyeh area of Zarqa have found the corpse of a 5-month old foetus near Al Ghweiriyeh cemetery, according to a story published Saturday in the local Arabic daily newspaper Sawt Al Sha'ab. A forensic doctor examined the body and attributed the cause of death to prematurity. Police forces are conducting investigations to find the mother.

Man, child die in accidents at home

ZARQA (J.T.) — A 50-year-old man, identified as M.J., from Janna'a in Zarqa was killed while tampering with his pistol in his home. In Irbid, a two year old child was found dead in a water cistern in his home and the body was taken to Princess Basma Hospital while the concerned authorities started investigations. In Tafleh, Sa'oud Al Badarin shot and killed a hyena which he saw from his car as he was driving in the area.

Seminar focuses on training problems

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar on training problems in Jordan began Saturday at the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) with the participation of 12 ministries, banks and companies. The four-day seminar has been organised by the Institute of Public Administration in cooperation with the World Bank. The symposium will discuss a World Bank report on project-related training in Jordan as well as strengthening cooperation and coordination between vocational and administrative training institutions and government sectors.

JEA starts trial operations at Aqaba thermal station

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Saturday announced that it has started experiment operations on the first stage of the Aqaba Thermal Power Station (ATPS). A JEA spokesman said the first stage of the station, which cost JD 80 million to install, has been linked with the national grid for initial operations which will last until the middle of this year when the stage will become fully operational at a commercial level.

The first stage of the station includes two thermal units each with a capacity of 130,000 kilowatts, the spokesman said.

Work on the second stage, the

spokesman said, is continuing and it is expected to be operational in the last quarter of 1986. The two stages use sea water instead of air for cooling which means cutting down on power production costs by nearly 22 per cent, the spokesman pointed out.

Once the two stages of the station are in operation, Jordan will be producing a total of 900,000 kilowatts enabling the JEA to meet the growing demand for power until the year 1990, he continued. The spokesman said that the first stage of the ATPS was financed by Arab funds, loans from friendly nations, the Jordanian treasury and JEA sources.

Nabulsi outlines activities of cooperative organisation

By Shihadeh Abu Baqar
Petra

AMMAN — The Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) has provided JD 11 million to member cooperatives, of which JD 6.5 million was allocated to the agricultural sector, JCO Director General Hassan Nabulsi has said.

Speaking about the cabinet's recent decision to reschedule farmers' loan repayments, Mr. Nabulsi said the decision was taken to alleviate farmers' burdens and to extend active support to them. The decision, he said, covered the medium and long term credit facilities which became mature at the end of 1985, but it did not touch seasonal loans. However, he added, the decision was aimed to facilitate the repayment of loans granted to farmers.

Outlining the units within the JCO, Mr. Nabulsi said the organisation comprises many sections including the Cooperative Institute which is in charge of training JCO employees. The organisation also includes the Cooperative Bank which provides cooperative societies with loans and other facilities. The specialised units group the audit department, project department and supply section in addition to the agricultural machinery section.

In reply to a question about the agricultural situation in Jordan, Mr. Nabulsi said the present circumstances are a result of focusing attention on certain areas has created what can be called "imbalance attention." He added all agricultural sectors are of sig-

nificant importance because they concern large numbers of people and are therefore of social importance.

Another point raised by Mr. Nabulsi is the expansion of buildings and construction at the expense of agricultural land. Mr. Nabulsi also said that an earlier neglect of the rainfed areas meant that farmers did not grow grains, particularly wheat.

Agricultural policy

Mr. Nabulsi went on to say that a number of achievements have been made but as yet there is no clear agricultural policy and he said it is necessary to draw up a firm, documented and binding agricultural policy which would fix production rates so that the volume of production would be in line with local and export market demands. There is also a need to define the roles of government authorities and other concerned parties through the formation of an ad hoc council, he continued.

Mr. Nabulsi also cited the periodic evaluation of activities as one of the procedures which should be defined prior to the formulation of an agricultural policy.

In answer to a question on the number of cooperative societies and their share of the JCO's budget, Mr. Nabulsi said there are 380 cooperative societies in Jordan grouping some 44,000 members, nearly half of whom are from the agricultural sector. "Agricultural societies have the lion's share of JCO loans," Mr. Nabulsi said.

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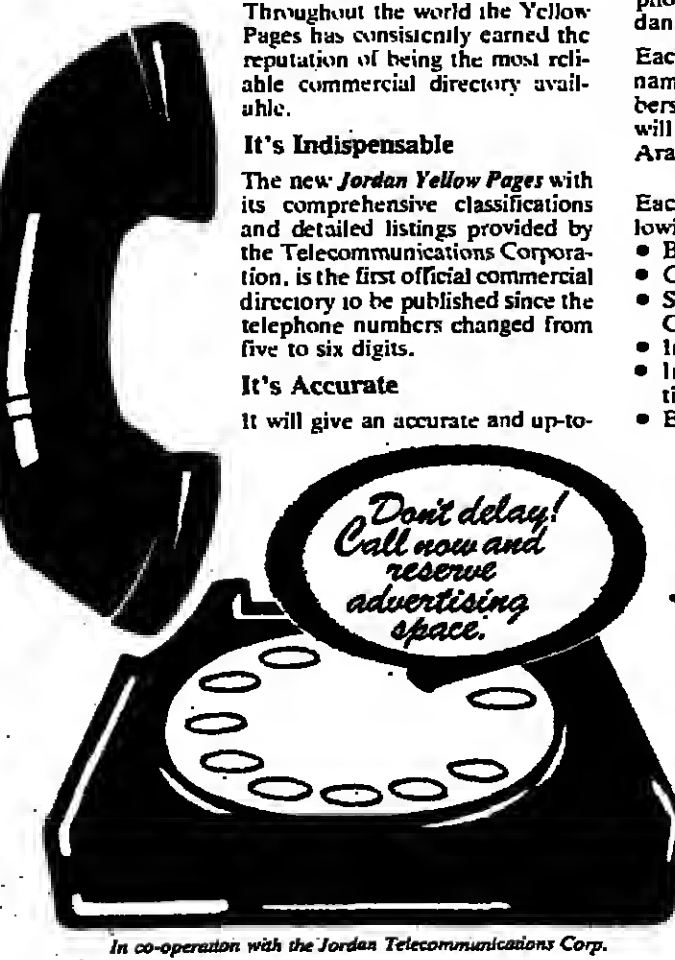
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- International tariffs, codes and time zones.
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Sunday's Economic Pulse

Government privatisation policy needs a push

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

OFFICIALLY, the Jordanian economy is a free economy and the individual's initiative is protected. In practice, however, the public sector has grown out of all proportions.

The modernisation and growth in Jordan since 1973 has been phenomenal; the gross national product (GNP) more than doubled in nine years. The annual growth rate fluctuated between 1.5 per cent and 9.6 per cent in real terms, with an average of around 10 per cent.

The public sector employs around 50 per cent of the manpower in the country. It provides almost half of all capital investment. All major shareholding companies are partially owned by the government, and the very major

ones are practically governmental units with the chief executive officers and board members being appointed and dismissed by the government.

There is a market with supply and demand in force, but the government fixes prices of all basic and important commodities and services, whether imported or locally produced, including but not limited to foodstuffs, transport, medicine and medical services, water, electricity, spareparts, fuel and building materials. The officially priced goods and services make up over 60 per cent of overall expenditure on both consumption and capital formation.

Government offshoots are involved in trading, manufacturing, banking and other

related activities. The public sector is responsible for over 35 per cent of the value added. The extent of its success in managing these activities is not satisfactory. The return on public investments is sometimes negative and sometimes lower than half the rate achieved by the private sector.

Public sector growth, or overgrowth, during the last decade was due to the availability of funds from Arab aid and external borrowing on the one hand, and to the urge for rapid economic development on the other hand.

Things are now different. Arab financial support has declined steadily over the last four years (1985 is an exception). Loans are becoming more exp-

ensive and more difficult to secure. There is a lot of fast development to digest, and large scale projects to consolidate.

Therefore, the Jordanian Government in its quest for savings in its public expenditure, must rediscover the virtues of the private sector. Private investment is needed to fill the gap. Revitalisation of the private sector is therefore a timely policy, called for by actual circumstances, and officially adopted by the present cabinet since April 1985.

The first step still needed is an organised disengagement between the public sector and the private sector. The country badly needs to draw the line between the area which must be left to the private sector, and

that which must remain a government responsibility.

The grey area between the public and the private sectors needs definite parameters. There is no doubt that the public sector has a major role to play in the development effort. The question is where this role should stop.

Those who belong to the public-sector school of thought think that economic activities are loose, and that the government should expand its role and strengthen its control. Those who support the market economy believe that the government has already exceeded its limit. The trend for less, or smaller, government is slowly gaining momentum in Jordan but the resistance is for-

midable.

It is obvious that the political decision to support the private sector has been taken. The present government is committed to more incentives, protection of, and freedom for the private sector. However, it is equally obvious that the bureaucracy does not favour this policy, and was able in some instances to reserve it, or obstruct its implementation.

If the private sector becomes convinced that the government is serious about the implementation of its declared policies, the Jordanian economy may witness a new stage of fast economic recovery, led by private investment. The private sector has a lot of idle resources which could be activated.

Day of the land

TODAY marks the tenth anniversary of the martyrdom of six Arabs who were killed by Israeli troops while protesting the confiscation of their land in Galilee in 1976. March 30 has since become Land Day, the symbol of Palestinian struggle to keep their homes and land in Palestine and the Arab territories occupied since 1967.

At a time when almost every shade of Israeli public opinion campaigns and strives to bring more Jews into Palestine, Palestinians are at one in resisting Israeli schemes and designs which are aimed at evicting them from their ancestral homeland.

It is not difficult to see the connection between more Jewish immigration into Palestine and Palestinian emigration from their homeland. What is more difficult to see and understand, however, is the way the Israelis have come to understand their state and its mission. Some of them, on the one hand, detect the morass of anti-Palestinian chauvinism into which Israel has been sinking but want their people and government to struggle out of it in order to encourage more Jews to immigrate. While on the other hand, there are the other, all-too-well-known groups who would actually boast of naked chauvinism if it only led to expelling all Palestinians from their homes and land.

It should not take too much imagination to see the contrast, but what is really important is for the Palestinians themselves to continue to remember that they are the object here. Only their steadfastness can foil the enemy design and prevent Israel from goppling up the rest of the land.

Steadfast Palestinians deserve from us not only sympathy and encouragement and verbal support. It is the duty of every Arab and all peace-loving nations in the world to help this people, in deeds rather than words, to free itself from the yoke of occupation and to attain its legitimate national rights that have been denied for so long.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: A boost for democracy

THE electoral law in Jordan had to be amended in view of the numerous changes on the political and economic scene in the country and due to the developments around the country which bear direct effect on it. The new law which came into being with parliament's endorsement on Thursday gives equal share in the house to the two banks, and this reflects the national unity which the representatives of this people are keen on safeguarding. The drawing up of the new law was carried out in a democratic manner, with both the executive and legislative bodies involved in it. For democracy is the basis of any success and is an enrichment to the constitutional life in Jordan. The increase in the number of deputies reflects the government's keenness on involving the greatest possible sector of the public in the policy-making process. The new law is therefore a new step in our constitutional and democratic march towards a better future, and towards further progress and prosperity.

Al Dustour: Remembering the freedom fighters

MARCH 30th marks the Land Day anniversary and is an occasion to remember our land, usurped by our enemy in Palestine. This is an anniversary of the struggle of the people for their land. It reminds us in particular of those who fell in the struggle and served as a beacon, lighting our path towards restoring our property and our right. The anniversary is a good reminder for every Arab citizen to remember the sacrifice which our brothers have offered in their fight to regain their land and the blood they shed in this long process. The anniversary reminds us of the long occupation of our land and the oppression our people are subjected to by the Zionists who continue their drive to seize our property and drive away the legitimate owners from it for good. Our common enemy has usurped our land in Palestine, but the people there have refused to accept this de facto situation and are continuing their confrontation and clashes with the enemy day after day and falling as martyrs in the struggle.

Sawt Al Shaab: The challenge of Camp David

FRIDAY marked the seventh anniversary of the signing of the Camp David accord between Egypt and Israel. This anniversary reminds us of the objectives of this agreement and these are: partial solutions for the Arab-Israeli conflict, isolating Egypt from the rest of the Arab World, exercising pressure on Syria, on Jordan and Lebanon and also confusing the Arabs and causing further disarray in their ranks. Though this agreement failed to achieve a solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict, it has succeeded in splitting the Arab World and rendering the Arab states weak and incapable of taking a joint action in the face of Zionist atrocities and illegal actions. The agreement has also succeeded in opening the door for exercising pressure on Lebanon and also Syria. Some Arabs had thought that the Camp David agreement will be terminated with the assassination of President Anwar Sadat of Egypt, but the present situation indicates that the situation is much the same. If the Arabs really wish to see Camp David dead, they should join their ranks and act seriously against the American-Zionist alliance and lay the ground for a real confrontation with the Zionist enemy through bolstering Arab political and economic fronts. Real action and not mere words are needed now to terminate the Camp David agreement.

Five years after launch, British SDP still in wings

By Brian Mooney
Reuters

LONDON — In the five years since it was launched with the boast that it would change the face of British politics, the Social Democratic Party (SDP) has come a long way and got nowhere.

The SDP, formally constituted on March 26, 1981, has established a centrist identity of its own and has forged with the Liberal Party an electoral alliance whose support in opinion polls consistently averages above 25 per cent.

Yet the party has a bare seven members in the 650-seat parliament, has no natural power base from big business or trade unions, makes scant impact on legislation and has yet to prove that it can carry out its pledge to break the traditional mould of British politics.

SDP leader David Owen, one of the founders of the party which split from the main Labour opposition in protest at its leftward lurch, promises a new dawn is just round the corner.

In an interview with Reuters, he forecast that the next elections, due within two years, would be the turning point in which the SDP and Liberals would emerge as a strong third force holding the balance of power between Labour and Conservatives.

"It's a commonplace now of British politics to accept that the next election is a three-horse race. We will be a major third force in the next parliament," Owen said.

Political power in Britain has oscillated between Labour and the Conservatives for most of the 20th century so if Owen's prediction is fulfilled the country will almost certainly face the novel situation of a hung parliament.

No party will have an outright majority.

In the absence of a written constitution and with little clear precedent there is no absolute certainty how such a situation would resolve itself, but Owen says the logical outcome would have to be a coalition.

The 47-year-old party leader, who was a former Labour foreign secretary, argues that coalition is exactly what Britain needs.

It would provide a platform for a return to consensus and halt a dangerous polarisation of party politics, epitomised by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's hard

conservatism on the one side and the extreme left of the Labour Party on the other.

If Owen's party fails to make the promised breakthrough with the Liberals at the next election, it faces a possible slow death in a system that is stacked heavily in favour of the big parties.

The SDP has made reform of the present winner-takes-all electoral system a major plank in its programme. Along with the Liberal Party, it wants to introduce proportional representation to Britain so that losers' votes also count.

The lack of proportional representation cost the alliance dearly in the 1983 general election. It won 25.4 per cent of the vote but ended up with just 23 parliamentary seats.

Owen said a change in the system would be "high on the agenda" in any coalition negotiations and that the alliance wanted the issue put to the country in a referendum.

It has waged a clever publicity campaign to try to convince Britons that they are out of step with the rest of Europe by not having proportional representation.

The two dominant parties, both potentially threatened by the SDP and Liberals, are adamantly opposed to electoral reform and refuse even to talk about the possibility of a coalition.

The ruling Conservatives and opposition Labour Party have hit back at the SDP by charging that the party, which prides itself in not being tied to any dogma, has no policies at all.

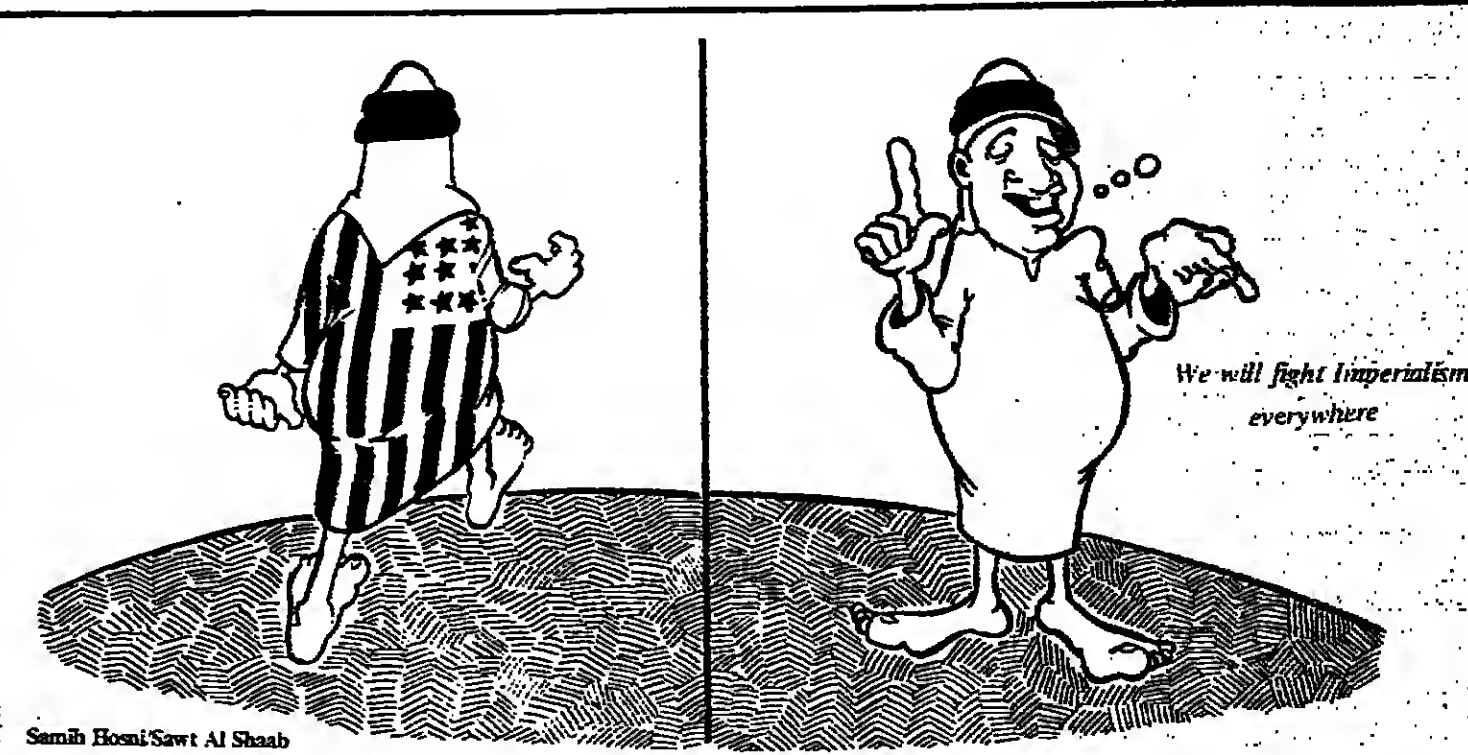
Owen, an ambitious former medical practitioner, is frequently accused of opportunism — a charge he denies.

He says he still has an essentially Socialist outlook, even if he does not any longer use the term Socialism.

"It was Labour which changed, not me," he said.

Owen said he could have happily served in Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez' Socialist government or in the latter stage of French President Francois Mitterrand's all-Socialist administration.

"I am not in any sense ashamed of being a member of the (former Labour Prime Minister James) Callaghan Labour cabinet," Owen said.



Kremlin keen on summit despite angry tone

By Charles Bremner
Reuters

MOSCOW — U.S. actions against Libya have brought a fresh barrage of anti-American rhetoric from the Kremlin, but there is no sign Moscow is writing off prospects for the next superpower summit, diplomats have said.

The Kremlin's denunciation of the U.S. strikes as banditry and a threat to world peace on March 25 added a further sour note to the U.S.-Soviet atmosphere, which has deteriorated over the past two months.

A series of disputes and differences over arms control and other issues have now put paid to the "spirit of Geneva" proclaimed by the Soviets after Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev met there in November.

But Western diplomats see an element of public posturing in the strong Soviet attacks and they believe the Kremlin is still committed to a second summit this year.

"They're playing a delaying game over the timing, hoping to get some concession from the Americans first," one European analyst said. "But they still obviously want the meeting."

One European ambassador said he believed Gorbachev needed the summit more than the Americans and his demand for an arms accord with Reagan reflected pressure at home from sections of the

leadership who felt he gave ground at Geneva.

Many Western diplomats believe Gorbachev's insistence on an arms accord stems from concern that his plans for economic reform will be jeopardised by the huge cost of matching U.S. weapons spending, particularly for a space-based defence.

The Kremlin has been avoiding an answer on the date of the next meeting which the two leaders agreed to hold this year.

In the latest exchange on the issue, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz failed to make any progress when he met Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov at the funeral of Swedish leader Olof Palme 2 weeks ago.

Under normal practice, Shultz must hold at least one preparatory meeting with Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze well ahead of the summit. No date for this has been fixed.

Since January, Gorbachev and the Kremlin have been piling public pressure on Washington to drop its "Star Wars" plans for an anti-missile shield in space and join in sweeping steps leading to a ban on nuclear weapons by the end of the century.

In a speech last month, Gorbachev switched to a tough tone and delivered a scathing attack on the United States, hinting he could stay away from the summit unless Reagan showed readiness to agree

on at least one arms area.

Taking his lead, the media and spokesmen have been saying Washington is not interested in detente and wants to torpedo the Geneva process by a series of provocative actions.

First among these was Ragan's refusal to join Gorbachev's halt to nuclear testing and most recent U.S. blast in Nevada was met with outrage.

The Soviet media say the whole world is also indignant over Reagan's failure to accept Gorbachev's January 15 plan for complete nuclear disarmament.

Gorbachev has said he is greatly disappointed by the failure of the United States, France and Britain to accept a proposal for scrapping medium-range missiles.

Reagan's counter-offer rejected Soviet conditions on the two allies' nuclear arsenals and called for Soviet Asian-based SS-20 missiles to be included.

Other U.S. actions, the Kremlin views as aimed at souring the atmosphere, are an order to Moscow to cut its U.N. staff in New York, the entering of Soviet Black Sea waters last week by two U.S. warships and Reagan's campaign against Nicaragua.

But Western officials who have had contact with Gorbachev and senior aids in recent weeks say their impression is that the Soviet leader sees another summit as necessary and useful.

Diplomats say the test is likely to come when Geneva talks on nuclear and space weapons reopen in May. Though the sides are still far apart, diplomats say there is a possibility of movement on the intermediate range (INF) missile issue.

This is one of the two areas Gorbachev suggested for pre-summit agreement in his February speech.

Western envoys say recent personnel changes and statements by Gorbachev indicate the U.S.-Soviet relationship and arms control have again assumed overriding priority for the Kremlin.

When he took office a year ago, Gorbachev made a point of stressing foreign policy fields outside the U.S.-Soviet spectrum, singling out Europe.

But in his speech last month at the party congress he dwelt heavily on the United States in strong ideological language and only briefly mentioned ties with other countries.

The appointment of veteran Washington ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin to head the party's international department also made clear Gorbachev's need for specialist expertise in relations with the United States.

Soviet sources say they expect Dobrynin to play a role as a "cabinet" adviser in the way Dr. Henry Kissinger did during the presidency of Richard Nixon 15 years ago.

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Study says olive oil is beneficial

The Associated Press

BOSTON — Replacing saturated fats with olive oil in food helps reduce cholesterol, according to new research that suggests Mediterranean fare is a healthy alternative to very low-fat diets for people whose cholesterol levels are too high.

Olive oil is high in mono-unsaturated fat, and the research shows that eating food rich in it effectively lowers cholesterol levels in the blood, just as a very low-fat diet does.

To benefit from this diet, however, people must largely give up saturated fat and replace it with the mono-unsaturated variety.

A high blood-cholesterol level sharply increases the risk of heart disease. Many health guidelines urge people with this problem to restrict their fat intake to the amounts common in Asian countries, where heart disease is rare.

Used liberally

Heart disease also is relatively unusual in such Mediterranean regions as southern Italy and Greece, where olive oil is used liberally.

"This paper supports the concept that a Mediterranean-type diet, high in mono-unsaturated fats, represents a reasonable alternative to a very low-fat diet," said Dr. Scott Grundy, who conducted the study. "We may have been a little too rigid in our dietary recommendations, saying that everybody has to eat the same diet to get the benefit of cholesterol lowering."

Grundy's research, conducted at the U.S. Veterans Administration Medical Center in Dallas, was published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

The American Heart Association recommends that people limit their fat consumption to 30 per cent of the calories they eat each day. Saturated fat should make up no more than 10 per cent of the total.

For those with elevated blood-cholesterol levels, the association urges people to limit their fat intake to 20 per cent of their daily calories.

Latest research

Dr. Virgil Brown of New York's Mount Sinai Medical Centre, chairman of the heart association's nutrition committee, says the association is not likely to change its recommendations as a result of the latest research.

But he said a diet high in mono-unsaturated and low in saturated fat may be useful if people stick to it.

"The advantage is that it makes the diet more palatable, and you may well have better adherence," Brown said. "Over the long term, you may be able to sustain a lower (cholesterol) level purely on the practical grounds that people will eat it. That's probably the major reason that this is an important paper."

However, he said a drawback is that fat is laden with calories. And people on a high-mono-unsaturated diet might put on weight, which would increase their risk of heart disease.

Olive oil and peanut oil are naturally high in mono-unsaturated fats. Sunflower oil and safflower oil could also be processed to be rich in mono-unsaturated fats, Grundy said.

Saturated fat tends to raise blood cholesterol levels. Cholesterol, in turn, clogs the heart's arteries and causes heart disease.

Regent emphasises potential of Zarqa as industrial centre

(Continued from page 1)

Dr. Nsour also suggested that allocations made for a number of Awqaf schemes be transferred to other sectors.

Dr. Nsour announced that China had given its consent to finance a sports complex in Zarqa Governorate to promote sports and youth activities.

He criticised a number of schemes, which he said, did not have steady financing and which, once completed, would not benefit a substantial number of people.

Another speaker at the meeting was Khalid Abu Hassan, member of a working committee involved in preparing the five-year plan. Mr. Hassan referred to the modest share of vocational training in the plan.

Dr. Fayez Tarawneh, economic adviser at the Prime Ministry, criticised people's low-level income in Zarqa Governorate despite the fact that the governorate continues to attract more and more population, and demanded that a revision be made in the statistics.

Dr. Tarawneh also criticised the plan for failing to include provisions that would allow more contribution by women to the economy.

Acting Zarqa Governor Mohammad Al Dabai, who chairs the special committee, said the new plan was different from any previous one since it aimed at increasing national income and encouraged more public participation in decision making, and at improving the standard of living for the citizens and promoting local administration and the role of the local councils.

The new plan has taken into consideration the general regional planning strategy in the country, and sources for financing each project, Mr. Dabai said.

For the plan to be successful a general survey for all services had to be carried out by the committee and this was executed in cooperation with the Ministry of Planning, he added.

Zarqa Governorate is located at a central position between Mafrq and Amman and is easily accessible from all directions, and this explains the active economic and social sectors in the governorate, whose population is more than half a million (411,000 in Zarqa proper) or 16 per cent of the total population in the Kingdom, Mr. Dabai pointed out.

But, he said, most people live in Zarqa proper and neighbouring Rusafa, making up nearly 80 per cent of the total population in the governorate.

At present, he said, the governorate has nine hospitals with 665 beds and 11 rural clinics, 12 mother and child care centres, 62 pharmacies, a blood bank and six laboratories in addition to 16 medical centres.

Also it has 44 secondary schools, 121 preparatory and 164 elementary schools, five community colleges, seven vocational training schools offering education and training to some 137,000 students through 5,910 teachers, he said.

Mr. Dabai also made mention of the condition of roads and postal services, electric power, water and other essential services in the governorate. He said a feasibility study was under way for installing a sewerage system in Zarqa and one had already started in Zarqa and Rusafa.

Referring to industry, he said the governorate has 1,122 industrial institutions employing some 12,000 workers and JD 135 million in capital, the highest among other governorates.

Commercial institutions now number 6,500 representing nine per cent of the total institutions in the country, Mr. Dabai added.

Arable land in Zarqa constitutes only five per cent of the total arable land in Jordan, with quarter of a million heads of sheep, goats and cows being reared in 158 farms.

The present five-year plan, Mr. Dabai said, has provided for the development of industry and mining and agriculture as well as supporting the cooperative movement and dealing with pollution, the distribution of water and improving pasture lands. Also included are plans to improve social

services, housing, sanitation and handicraft industry.

According to Mr. Dabai, a total of JD 233.5 million will be invested in all sectors. The amount represents 6.7 per cent of the total national investments in Jordan within the overall five-year plan.

These investments would benefit the social and construction sectors and education, water, health, sports and other fields, he said. Zarqa Deputy Governor Khalid Al Bawazil spoke afterwards referring to the establishment of new centres for training women and kindergarten, libraries and other facilities within the new plan.

Mr. Bawazil also referred to health and sports centres, first aid centres and schools that are to be built in the governorate over the coming five years.

Mr. Ibrahim Takiuddin, director of the Zarqa Chamber of Commerce, also spoke at the meeting, referring to the existence of 7,500 commercial institutions in Zarqa Governorate — 16 per cent of the total number of such institutions in the Kingdom.

Most of the commercial activity, he said, was related to food supplies. He said the coming plan provides for setting up vocational training centres, trade and industrial exhibitions and an agricultural commercial company.

Mr. Ra'uf Abu Jaber spoke about the industrial sector and said that 1,122 industrial institutions exist in the governorate at present covering mining, consumer goods and food, chemicals and other industries.

Also speaking during the session was Zarqa Municipal Committee President Deifallah Al Qalbi, who said that productive projects have been taken into consideration while drafting the municipality's five year development plan.

According to Mr. Qalbi, the municipality's five-year development plan stresses a comprehensive plan to upgrade the administrative efficiency of the municipality's employees, to preserve nature from pollution, to increase municipal revenues through developmental projects and

to establish several youth centres to pave the way for the inception of a sports city.

In order to realise all the plan's objectives, the city of Zarqa has been divided into eight sectors and each sector has been provided with needed personnel and equipment, Mr. Qalbi added.

The development plan includes the establishment of 13 different schemes. These projects are: health centres and widening the entrance of the city (JD 600,000), paving and asphaltting roads (JD 1,250,000), building bridges to connect roads (JD 950,000), installing traffic lights (JD 300,000), setting up parking lots (JD 200,000), basic services (JD 250,000), public parks (JD 250,000), building eight cultural centres (JD 400,000), building a sports city (JD 3,000,000), completing second phase of the central vegetable market (JD 54,000), completing vocational centres (JD 1,200,000) establishing a slaughter house (JD 1,000,000) and completing the city's trading centre (JD 300,000).

Head of Deil Municipal Council Akrim Al Oudat emphasised the need for a survey to study the water potential of Deil in order to strike an ecological balance.

Deil, Mr. Oudat said, had a lot of white cement, mineral water and touristic sites which could be further developed.

The municipality's five-year development plan will cost JD 4,500,000 and include JD 1,400,000 for developing services, JD 1,500,000 for infrastructure and JD 1,600,000 for the production sector.

Head of the southern Azraq Municipal Council Abdul Jalil Abu Baker said crude oil and edible salt were the major resources available in the municipality whose population is estimated at 5,000. It also has two wild-life preserves and is the first transit stopover of passengers travelling to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and other Gulf countries.

Mr. Abu Baker said the total amount of investment that was needed to be put into the Azraq region was JD 16,500,000.

Switzerland's neutrality: Principles and history

By Harald Borner

Mr. Borner is Switzerland's ambassador to Jordan. He delivered the lecture below in a Rotary Club luncheon in Amman last week.

WHEN I was asked by your esteemed president to speak about my country, I felt very honoured but I must confess that I was also a little bit puzzled. What can I tell you about Switzerland? The Rotarians that they do not already know? Most of you have travelled to Switzerland or have close connections with my country. On top of that, everybody knows that we have cows, chocolate, watches and a few banks here and there. You have all of you seen that Geneva is a beautiful town at the end of a lovely lake and if you were lucky, maybe you even have seen a genuine Swiss.

So I came to the idea that I shall speak about a subject which you have not yet heard of and, which is not to buy or to sell and which we do not export. But a subject which is the root of our history, our tradition and today a subject without knowing it, it would be difficult to understand why Switzerland is not a member of the European Community, the World Bank and even not of the United Nations.

Dear Rotarians, I shall not give you an abstract lecture after such a good lunch but I only try to speak of movements in general terms about Switzerland, permanent and armed neutrality, yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Switzerland bursts into history with a crash. The Swiss, at least, like to think so. Did not a Helvetian tribe, leaving the banks of the river Rhine, beat a Roman army in 107 B.C. and make it pass under the yoke? But this victory was of no great effect. The tribe had to return to the road leading to that part of country which geographers much later called Helvetia.

The Helvetians, "wealthy with gold" as a Greek geographer, "outdoing all the other Gauls in martial valour" writes a Roman historian, had appeared on what is called today the Swiss Plateau towards the year 100 B.C.

If modern Switzerland has inherited anything from its Helvetian forefathers, it is not only the rather erudite name, Confœderatio Helvetica (today embossed on the Swiss coins, and its logogram CH, which is affixed to Swiss cars), but also a political system more multifarious and particularised than that of any other state. This fragmentation into small cantons is still typical of the country and during the last 150 years it has been a permanent feature throughout its history.

But I am not going to tell you all the history of my country — the management of the Jordan International hotel needs this room before tomorrow morning.

This was just to remind you that the Swiss are not coming from another planet with the pocket full of money, but that they had to struggle to gain their independence. In other words, the concept of neutrality is not born with them but became apparent with the foundation of the state.

In fact, the origins of Swiss neutrality go back to the times of the wars in Italy, when the defeat which the Swiss cantons suffered at Marignano (1515) put an end to the wars of religion following the Reformation, the policy of "abstention" adopted by the cantons was one of the determining factors of the survival of this loose alliance of states in a Europe torn by strife. However, Swiss neutrality as it is today is the product of an evolution which took many centuries. It began as occasional neutrality, and progressively took on the character of permanent neutrality. Before its recognition by the powers at the Congress of Vienna (1815), Swiss neutrality had been subjected to many violations. These included the occupation of Switzerland's territory by its temporary annexation by some of the parties to the dispute, and subsequently, during the wars of liberation, the passage of the allied troops through Swiss territory.

On November 20, 1815, in Paris, the five great powers, Austria, France, Great Britain, Prussia and Russia (later joined by Portugal), signed an act containing a declaration on neutrality, of which the essential passage reads as follows:

"The Powers signatories to the Vienna Declaration of 20th March hereby formally and authentically recognise the perpetual neutrality of Switzerland and guarantee the integrity and inviolability of her territory within her own boundaries."

This neutrality, formally recognised by the powers, stood the test of time and experience during the various European conflicts of the 19th century. In 1859 during the war in Italy, in 1866 during the Austro-Prussian war and above all during the Franco-German war of 1870-71.

On August 4, 1914, at the beginning of the First World War, the Federal Council published the following declaration of neutrality: "Acting by special mandate from the Federal Assembly, the Federal Council therefore formally declares that during the coming war the Swiss Confederation will maintain and defend by all means in its power the neutrality and inviolability of its territory, as recognised by the 1815 treaties."

After hostilities had ceased, the question whether to join the League of Nations confronted neutral Switzerland with special problems. At the express request of Switzerland, the Council of the League of Nations adopted the following declaration, known as "The London Declaration," on Feb. 13, 1920.

"The Council of the League of Nations, while affirming that the conception of neutrality of the members of the League is incompatible with the principle that all members will be obliged to co-operate in enforcing respect for their engagements, recognises that Switzerland is in a unique situation, based on a tradition of several centuries which has been explicitly incorporated in the Law of Nations; and that the members of the League of Nations, signatories of the treaty of Versailles, have rightly recognised by Article 435 of the guarantees stipulated in favour of Switzerland by the treaties of 1815 and especially by the act of November 20, 1815, constitute international obligations for the maintenance of peace."

When, by a small majority, the Swiss people approved Switzerland's accession to the League of Nations on May 16, 1920, they thereby also gave their specific approval to so-called "differential" neutrality, according to which Switzerland, as a result of her accession, was henceforth required to participate, not in any military, but in all economic and financial sanctions decided on by the League of Nations.

During the war between Italy and Ethiopia in 1935, difficulties due to differential neutrality arose for Switzerland, which led the Federal Council to endeavour to re-establish absolute neutrality. However it was not until 1938 that Switzerland succeeded in obtaining from the Council of the League of Nations her release from the obligation to take part in any kind of sanctions. Thus, Switzerland regained her integral neutrality just before the outbreak of the Second World War.

At the beginning of the Second World War the Federal Council published a declaration of neutrality very similar to that of 1914, and again notified it to all the powers engaged in the conflict. The general mobilisation of the Swiss army, which had already been decreed at the time of the German campaign in Poland, made it quite obvious that in this new world conflict Switzerland was again determined to take seriously the obligations stemming from her armed neutrality.

The powers which had won the Second World War let it be clearly understood, at the time of the creation of the United Nations, that there would be no room for neutral states in the new world organisation. But at that time neither the Federal Council, nor the Fed-

eral Chambers, nor the people, nor the Cantons would have accepted Switzerland's accession to the United Nations if it involved the renunciation of neutrality. Therefore, after Switzerland's testing of rejections at San Francisco had confirmed that the victorious powers were not prepared to approve her accession if it involved explicit reservation of her perpetual neutrality, the Federal Council gave up the idea of submitting an official application for membership.

Immediately after the Second World War the great powers were not alone in considering the attitude of the neutral states questionable and even morally reprehensible particularly that of Switzerland, which had emerged intact from that great struggle and was criticised precisely because she had kept out of the war. In addition, the opinion was widely held that, in any case, neutrality was out of date in the era of the atomic bomb, as it could no longer be practised in the event of nuclear war. Therefore, immediately after the war, Switzerland ran the risk of political isolation not only because she did not join the United Nations, but also more generally because of her unflinching determination to retain her perpetual neutrality. Hence it was a major objective of Swiss foreign policy in the post-war years to avoid this isolation by ensuring Switzerland's participation in international co-operative efforts wherever this was compatible with the principles of permanent neutrality.

Furthermore, the fact that she was not a member did not prevent Switzerland from becoming a party to the Statute of the International Court of Justice, and specifically recognising the compulsory jurisdiction of the court. Moreover, she participates in the work of certain agencies of the United Nations, and took part, for example, in the peace-keeping action in Cyprus and in the Middle East by her financial contribution to UNFICYP and by putting an aircraft at the disposal of UNTSO.

From the beginning, Switzerland has attached particular importance to participating actively in the work of the UN's specialised agencies. Today, she belongs to all the specialised agencies of the U.N. except the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. As none of these organisations is of a political or military character, Switzerland was able to join them without reservation.

After the three reports of the Federal Council on Switzerland's relationship with the U.N. (1969, 1971 and 1977) and after the report of the Consultative Commission for Switzerland's Relations with the U.N. set up by the Federal Council, the question of accession could be considered thoroughly clarified. After noting, with approval, the 3rd U.N. report, the National Council asked the Federal Council to present a message of accession to it "at the earliest convenient moment." On Dec. 21, 1981, the Federal Council published a message, addressed to parliament.

Both houses of the parliament accepted it in 1984.

According to the Swiss constitution, the final decision belongs to the Swiss people. On March 16th, 1986, the decision of the government to join the United Nations was submitted to a compulsory referendum. To be approved, the governmental decision must receive a double-majority, first the one of the majority of the voters and secondly the majority of the 23 cantons. Switzerland is the only country where it belongs to the people to decide on the question of joining the United Nations.

As you have surely learned by the Jordanian mass media which covered this item thoroughly, on March 16, the Swiss people rejected massively the government's proposal by a majority of 75 per cent. Not a single canton has accepted it. On the following day, the Swiss government published the following declaration:

"It clearly appeared during the preceding campaign that the basic principles underlying our foreign policy were not contested. In the view of the Federal Council, permanent and armed neutrality, solidarity with the international community, universality in Switzerland's foreign relations as well as our readiness to be at the disposal of others with regard to good offices, will thus continue to shape our relations with other states. In the same manner, we shall continue our endeavours to strengthen international law and human rights as well as to foster their universal observance."

With this declaration, I am coming to the end of my lecture. I have tried to describe the evolution of the concept of neutrality of my country during the ages. One aspect, and this is to me the essential part of it, is that neutrality never meant and will never mean abstention but engagement in favour of the world community, of the defense of human rights and above all of peace.

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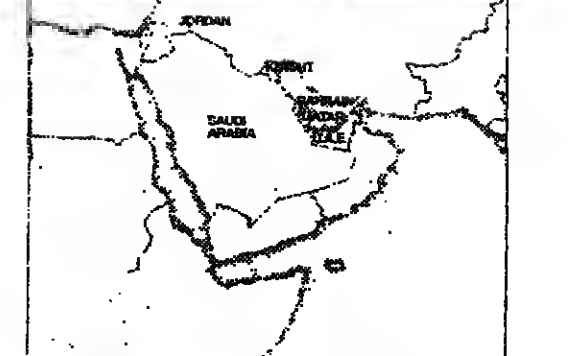
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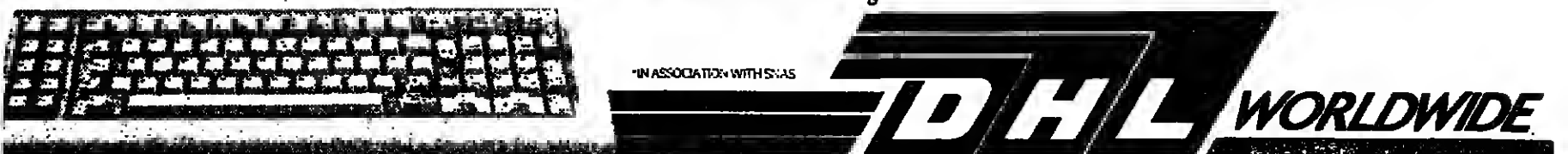
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Everton, West Ham strengthen positions Cambridge wins boat race

LONDON (R) — Everton pulled two points clear at the top of the English First Division thanks to a 1-0 home win over Newcastle Saturday as West Ham strengthened their outside chance of taking the title by thrashing Chelsea 4-0.

Second-placed Liverpool were reasonably pleased with their 0-0 draw at Sheffield Wednesday. Manchester United also drew but with England captain Bryan Robson back in their ranks they must have been hoping for something better than the 1-1 result at lowly Birmingham.

Everton have 69 points from 34 games followed by Liverpool, 67 from 35, and United, 64 from 34. A 30th-minute effort by midfielder Kevin Richardson after a mistake by the Newcastle goalkeeper was enough to ensure victory for Everton, the defending champions.

Birmingham's Ian Handysides looked to have all but extinguished Manchester United's title hopes when he shot home a rebound in the 66th minute.

But United, driven forward by Robson, fought back to grab a late

23rd goal of the season.

Chelsea, who are now seven points behind Everton, were not the only club whose title pretensions suffered as the result of defeat in an all-London game.

Saturday morning Arsenal, whose manager Don Howe and Chief coach John Cartwright resigned Friday, ended a disastrous week by suffering a 1-0 defeat at the hands of Tottenham.

The north London clash was settled by a 33rd minute goal from England fullback Gary Stevens although fellow international Glenn Hoddle nearly made it 2-0 seconds later with a rocket shot against the post.

Robson, Hoddle's partner in England's midfield, survived his first game after injuring his shoulder — which was protected by a harness — and provided the pass which set Davenport free to score.

United's attention now turns to Monday's game against Everton at Old Trafford which could give a major clue to the destination of the league championship trophy.

Everton were not at their best Saturday, perhaps unnerved by

the absence of regular goalkeeper Neville Southall through injury, and they had to survive a missed penalty by England striker Peter Beardsley just seconds before the end.

Liverpool, who had the best of the draw with their fellow-Football Association (F.A.) Cup semifinalists, tackle Manchester City, who drew 2-2 with Aston Villa, on Monday.

In a rehearsal for the league cup final on April 20, Oxford drew 3-3 with Queen's Park Rangers.

A thrilling encounter was highlighted by five goals in a 33-minute burst in the first half. Oxford's goals were scored by their new Ireland internationals Ray Houghton and John Aldridge, who netted two penalties.

Bottom club West Bromwich Albion kept alive their faint hopes of avoiding the drop into the second division by beating Southampton 1-0.

Albion have 21 points, Birmingham 29 and Aston Villa 30 as midlands clubs continue to look for favourites for relegation.

Norwich, by common consent the classiest team in the second division, went 10 points clear at the top after beating Fulham 2-1, while Charlton stayed in touch in fourth place after a 2-2 draw with fellow-Londoners Millwall.

However, the game of the day in the second division was the clash between Portsmouth and Wimbledon, second and third.

Nearly 19,000 saw Wim-

bledon's goalkeeper Dave Beasant save a first half penalty but he could do nothing to stop Noel Blake putting Portsmouth ahead in the 53rd minute.

Defender Mick Smith equalised seven minutes later to leave Wimbledon six points behind Portsmouth with nine games remaining.

In Scotland Hearts equalled Rangers' record of 27 games without defeat when they beat the Glasgow side 3-1 to stay five points clear at the top of the Premier Division.

The Edinburgh side, unbeaten since September, went ahead after just five minutes when John Robertson lobbed the opening goal, and the striker put them 2-0 up two minutes after halftime with a penalty.

Rangers pulled a goal back when ally McCoist also scored from the penalty spot but Hearts ended the game on a high note. Sandy Clark netting the third in injury time.

Second-placed Dundee United maintained their challenge by beating city rivals Dundee 1-0, thanks to a header by international defender Richard Gough, while champions Aberdeen, seven points adrift of Hearts, struggled to a 1-0 win over Motherwell.

Celtic improved their chances of playing in Europe next season by thumping Clydebank 5-0. Brian McClair hitting a hat-trick which included two penalties.

swiping some of the scenery, has 11.

All leading drivers said the first section in the rally had been easy although Kenyan Shekhar Mehta, in a second Peugeot broke a rear drive shaft. But this did not stop him holding on to third spot, two minutes adrift of Kankkunen.

All the Lancias overheated when grass on a particularly lush section of the road through the Chyulu hills plugged up their air intakes, something which local Lancia driver Vic Preston Junior had predicted would happen.

Another Swede in a Toyota, Lars-Eric Torph, checked into the rest stop fourth, ahead of teammate Erwin Weber of West Germany.

Swede leads African Safari

NAIROBI (R) — Twice winner Bjorn Waldegaard of Sweden held a one-minute lead over defending title-holder Juba Kankkunen of Finland as drivers checked into the first rest stop of the Kenyan Safari rally Saturday night.

After an easy start along the metalled Mombasa road, the drivers received their first taste of Kenya's dirt tracks as they skirted Mount Kilimanjaro before taking a first brief rest in a Safari lodge 390 kilometres into the 1286.9 kilometre first leg.

Waldegaard, driving the well-tried Toyota Celica T.C., has collected 10 minutes in penalties while Kankkunen, who stopped to replace a rear body panel for his Peugeot 205 T16 after sid-

ewiping some of the scenery, has 11.

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LONDON (AP) — The light blues of Cambridge ended a decade of Oxford domination by romping to an easy victory in the 132nd university boat race Saturday.

Braving atrocious weather conditions and outweighed considerably by the dark blues of Oxford, Cambridge won the prestigious 6.8 kilometre race along the River Thames for the first time since 1975.

Cambridge's winning margin was 11 seconds, or seven lengths — the highest victory margin since 1981 when Oxford won by eight lengths.

Cambridge was presented with the ten-year-old Ladbroke Trophy — which it had never previously won — by Prince Edward, youngest son of Queen Elizabeth II and a Cambridge student.

The prestigious race promised to be one of the closest for many years, but the Cambridge crew soon opened up a clear lead that clearly disheartened the Oxford eight.

Buoyant after so many successive triumphs, Oxford's "dark blues" were more experienced overall and averaged 2.3 kilograms per crew member heavier.

But the Cambridge crew were rated better technically and had the best oarsman, John Pritchard, who won a silver medal at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, rowing for Britain's eight.

The swing in the light blues' favour was reflected in the pre-race odds being offered by the betting division of Ladbroke's, which also sponsored the race. It made Cambridge 4-5 favourite with Oxford evens, and it's judgement proved right on the day.

Thousands of students, rowing fans and tourists crowded the banks as the two teams of eight beefy oarsmen hauled their lightweight craft, steered by a tiny cox, along the choppy river.

Millions more watched the race live on television.

Oxford had beaten Cambridge every time since 1976, but the light blues triumph stretched its

overall lead to 69-62 edge with one dead heat.

With Ladbroke's threatening to end its ten year sponsorship to move into other fields, Cambridge had an ever bigger incentive than normal to win.

Before Saturday's race, only Oxford's name had appeared on the Ladbroke Trophy.

Five times in the history of the race, one of the crews has sunk, and weather conditions for Saturday's race — a gusty wind, thunder, lightning, hail and heavy rain — opened up the possibility that one or both of the crews might not reach the finish line.

Coach Dan Topolski, who guided Oxford to its streak of triumphs, said before the race he hoped the weather was rough.

Cambridge's no. 1 oarsman, John Pritchard, who won an Olympic silver medal with the British eight at Los Angeles in 1984, countered: "We are trained to race over the whole course, whatever the conditions. If the going is rough they (Oxford) they will have to heat us in that as well."

Becker, Connors to battle for first time

CHICAGO (R) — The top three seeds reached the semifinals of the \$315,000 Chicago Grand Prix Tennis tournament Friday, bringing Boris Becker face-to-face with Jimmy Connors for their first tournament match.

Top-seeded Ivan Lendl will face unseeded American Scott Davis in the semifinals while the West German teenager takes on one of his boyhood idols in the second-seeded Connors.

"I first saw Jimmy Connors play on TV in 1982 when he won Wimbledon against John McEnroe," said Becker, now 18 years old and the reigning Wimbledon champion.

"I always liked his psyching-up, the way he fights for every point. I'm doing that myself a little," he said.

Becker, prone to scuffing up his knees diving for points in typical Connors fashion, did not exert himself much in beating American Paul Amacone 6-4, 6-1. The hard-serving Becker lost just nine points in his first nine service games.

Connors beat Andres Gomez of Ecuador 6-3, 6-1.

Lendl of Czechoslovakia, the world's top-ranked player, broke Johan Kriek's serve once in each set to defeat the seventh-seeded American 6-4, 6-3, while Davis upset his sixth-seeded countryman Kevin Curren 5-7, 7-6 (7-4), 6-4.

Although they have never before played each other in a tournament,

Becker and Connors have spent plenty of time on the practice court.

"At La Quinta (California) we played every morning at 8:00 a.m.," Becker said. "Connors never stops. One hour on a court for him is like three hours for somebody else. He goes 100 per cent on the court."

Connors beat Gomez before the Becker-Amacone match began, but did not stay around to study his next opponent.

"I didn't stay to scout Becker," said the 33-year-old Connors. "I have other things to do. I have my kids with me. We want to play together."

Connors was referring to his 16-month-old daughter, Aubree Leigh, and to his six-year-old son Brett, who is closer in age to Becker than Becker is to Connors.

In the day's only surprise, Davis survived a barrage of 17 aces from Curren to pull off his upset.

"All you can do is shake off an ace against you," Davis said. "Just walk over and get ready for the next point. If you worry about it, it gets you down."

In Nashville, Tennessee, top-seeded Americans Pam Shriver and Barbara Potter, playing in only their third tournament, were decisive winners Friday as they advanced to the semifinals of the World Doubles Championship.

Shriver and Potter took just 60 minutes to dispose of South African Ros Fairbank and American Candy Reynolds 6-2, 6-4.

Third seeds Hana Mandlikova of Czechoslovakia and Wendy Turnbull of Australia, by contrast, needed nearly two and one half hours to overcome the stubborn resistance of Americans Anne White and Mary Lou Piatek — and a power failure — before winning 6-7 (3-7), 7-5, 7-5.

In other quarterfinal matches, defending champions Kathy Jordan of the U.S. and Elizabeth Smylie of Australia, seeded second, fought their way past Americans Gigi Fernandez and Robin White, while the Russian pairing of Svetlana Parkhomenko and Larissa Savchenko upset fourth seeds Elise Burgin and Sharon Walsh-Pete of the U.S.

Mandlikova and Turnbull, who upset Navratilova and Shriver last week at New York's Madison Square Garden, were nearly blown away in the final set when play resumed after a 19-minute delay to get the lights working properly again.

Leading 1-0 in the final set at the time, they lost the next five games after the restart only to reel off the next six games in succession to capture the victory.

"It was tough to think positive when you're 5-1 down, but you just keep fighting and forget the score," said Mandlikova. "White and Piatek played a very good match and were a little unlucky."

Shriver and Potter next face Mandlikova and Turnbull, while the Russians play Jordan and Smylie in the other semifinal.

Bahrain, Qatar draw 0-0 in Gulf cup soccer contest

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain and Qatar played to a scoreless draw here Saturday, leaving Kuwait clear leaders in the seven-nation Gulf cup soccer tournament.

The result left Bahrain and Qatar both with four points from one win and two ties each, but with the home team ahead on goals.

Qatar played Saturday without key striker Mansour Mufah in a balanced match before 15,000 spectators. But the tight Qatari defence smothered several strong Bahraini attacks.

Qatar in turn put on the pressure in the second half, but Bahrain goalkeeper Mohammad Saleh made several good saves to keep the slate clean.

On Sunday, Oman play the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and titleholders Iraq play Saudi Arabia on the ninth day of the 21-day tournament.

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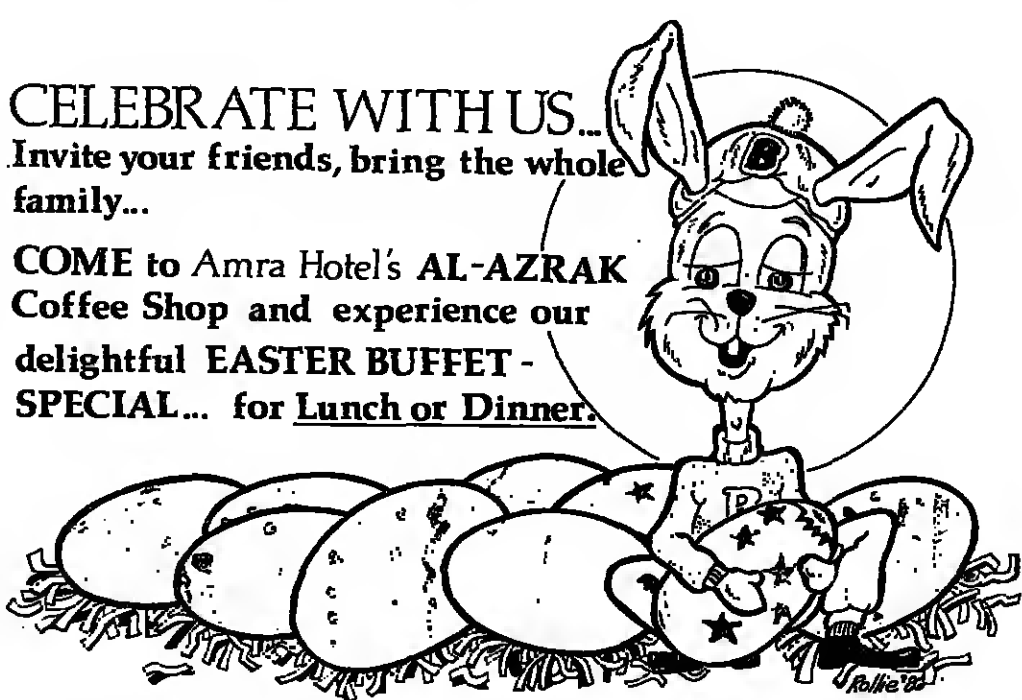
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CHINED HEAT

(Colour)
Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

Third World debt repayments remain difficult, IMF says

WASHINGTON (AP) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has painted a gloomy picture of the Third World debt problem, setting the stage for the semi-annual IMF-World Bank meetings beginning April 6.

"The medium-term outlook for coping with the debt-serving problems of developing countries means difficult," says an IMF study under review. Mr. C. Maxwell Watson, head of the fund's section on capital markets.

In bankers' language, "medium-term" means three to five years—

poor countries with loans, advise governments on their economies and put pressure on commercial banks to lend larger sums.

Treasury Secretary James A. Baker III has been urging the World Bank especially to make more "policy-based" loans, which are given on condition that the

"Debt servicing" is shorthand for payments of interest and repayments of principal. In recent years, heavily indebted countries have repaid little principal. Some governments change policies to put their countries into better shape to repay.

"The global economic environment has become less favourable," the fund report goes on.

governments, notably Peru and Nigeria, have said they will limit interest payments, too.

The fund's study is called "International Capital Markets—Developments and Prospects." Dated February, it was distributed to reporters this week.

It gives a series of reasons:

- Economic growth in the industrial countries has slowed. As a result they are buying less goods from the poorer countries,
- Protection is on the rise against international sales by the debtor countries.

On April 6 the week of meetings will start with representatives of debtor countries expected to repeat complaints that

The report says that "spontaneous" new lending by commercial banks has slowed and is likely to remain very limited. It adds that this lending will also be subject to sharp swings as banks change their minds about "cre-

Governments are asking some relief from this burden. Bankers, supported by President Ronald Reagan's administration, say they can not lend money at less than market rates.

The bank and fund are owned by the same member governments, with the United States and its major allies holding most of the voting rights. They help

disworthiness," the prospects for repayment.

Banks lend spontaneously that is, without pressure from the fund or individual governments when they have confidence in countries' economies. The fund report shows that in Latin America, where the biggest debtors are concentrated, this kind of lending was down from \$26 billion in 1983 to \$600 million in 1984.

OPEC will be forced to agree on production cuts, OIAPEC chief says

ABU DHABI, UAE (AP) — Recalcitrant Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) member states will be forced to agree to production cuts because their losses will reach unprecedented levels. O.APEC

Secretary General Ali Atiqa was quoted as predicting Saturday.

Mr. Atiqa told the United Arab Emirates (UAE) newspaper Al

It is said that those member states 'will come to realise that it is better to produce less at higher prices than to produce more at lower prices'.

"Many of the OPEC member states passed through a bitter experience over the recent months

Unidentified member states of

the 13-nation group, had refused due to the sharp drop in oil prices.

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Answer: What a man is apt to become when a pretty girl tells him how strong he is—WEAK

Ortega: U.S. turning Nicaraguan border region into a war zone

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — President Daniel Ortega, condemning U.S. Senate approval of aid for rebels fighting his government, accused the United States of turning Nicaragua's northern border region into a war zone.

The Nicaraguan leader vowed the Sandinista army would continue fighting any of the rebels, called Contras, discovered to have entered Nicaraguan territory from neighbouring Honduras.

But he and Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, at a press conference Friday, refused to say directly if Sandinista troops had ever entered Honduras while chasing Contras back across the border.

Nicaragua's Defence Ministry earlier this week denied U.S. and Honduran charges that up to 1,500 Sandinista soldiers entered Honduras in pursuit of Contras.

In the Honduran capital of Tegucigalpa, sources close to the Honduran military said the Sandinista troops had withdrawn, leaving behind only stragglers, the sources spoke on condition of anonymity.

Mr. Ortega said Nicaragua "does no more than defend itself against attacks by that come from Honduran territory by the mercenary forces implanted by the United States."

"As long as there is an aggressor force trying to invade our territory, we will continue defending up to the border, which has been turned into a war zone thanks by the work of and thanks to the United States," Mr. Ortega said.

Mr. D'Escoto, asked the same question, said the Sandinistas "have never transgressed any of the norms laid down by international law. We have not violated the territorial integrity or sovereignty of Honduras."

Mr. D'Escoto said the administration of U.S. President Ronald Reagan had accused Nicaragua of invading its neighbour in hopes of getting U.S. Senate approval for \$100 million in aid for the Contras.

"The reason for the charge is to charge Nicaragua as an aggressor. And that is the question," Mr. D'Escoto said.

"Has Nicaragua committed an act of aggression? And the answer is quite clear, categorically, no. Any other question is irrelevant."

Mr. Ortega called the news conference after the U.S. Senate on Thursday night approved, 53-47, a modified version of Mr. Reagan's plan for aiding the Contras.

The package now returns to the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives for action. The House last week narrowly defeated the proposal.

Mr. Ortega warned that "American authorities, American advisers, American helicopters run the same risk as the mercenaries."

U.S. troops have been staging almost continuous manoeuvres in Honduras.

"The responsibility is theirs," he said. "Nicaragua has the right to defend its territory."

Meanwhile, a civilian source near this country's border with Honduras told the Associated Press that at least 10 truckloads of Nicaraguan soldiers were seen on their way to the border early Friday, and that intense fighting with rebel groups was under way on the Nicaraguan side of the frontier.

The civilian source near the border told AP by telephone that truckloads of Nicaraguan troops passed through Ocoatl, capital of Nueva Segovia province and 140 miles north of Managua, on their way to the border town of Teotecacinte.

In Tegucigalpa, Western diplomats said Nicaraguan troops chasing U.S.-backed rebels have crossed the mountainous, ill-defined border into Honduras up to 60 times in the last six months.

Violence breaks out in Punjab after killing of Hindus

NEW DELHI (R) — Police opened fire in two Punjab towns including the Sikh holy city Amritsar Saturday to break up clashes arising from the Sikh extremist killing of 16 Hindus in the north Indian state.

Six people were wounded in the northern town of Pathankot when police fired on 2,500 members of Shiv Sena, a right-wing Hindu group.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said the protesters tried to burn down the town's railway station, post office and a police station before police opened fire to disperse them.

The demonstrators also burned an effigy of Punjab Chief Minister Surjit Singh Barnala, head of the moderate Sikh political party, the Akali Dal.

In Amritsar, about 500 Sikhs and Hindus clashed after Hindus tried to stage a march to protest at Friday's Sikh extremist attack in the industrial town of Ludhiana. Three people were injured in the fighting, which broke up when police fired in the air.

Police said a curfew had been imposed on Pathankot, making it the ninth Punjab town to be put under curfew in the past 11 days.

Despite the disturbances, troops remained in their barracks and there was no imminent sign that Mr. Barnala planned to call them in to restore order.

Several opposition political parties and right-wing Hindu groups like Shiv Sena have demanded Mr. Barnala's resignation for failing to end an extremist campaign for a separate Sikh state in Punjab.

Mr. Barnala and two of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's closest aides visited Ludhiana this morning for an on-the-spot investigation of the murder of the 16 Hindus.

Police patrolled the city's streets and escorted funeral processions for the victims, shot by Sikh gunmen dressed as policemen.

One of the Gandhi aides, Internal Security Minister Arun Nehru, vowed to give all the help needed to the state government to put down the extremist threat.

Flawless launch gives big boost to Arianespace

KOUROU, French Guiana (R) — Jubilant European officials hailed the flawless launch of two satellites by an Ariane-3 rocket as a boost to even faster order books at a time when the rival U.S. shuttle is grounded.

The rocket, which sat embarrassingly on its pad because of a computer failure five seconds before launch nine days ago, blasted off from the jungle space centre exactly on schedule at 8.30 p.m. (2330 GMT) Friday night.

Arianespace officials, anxious to prove they had a reliable launch system in the multi-million dollar commercial space race, broke into cheers and applause as all three stages of the rocket performed perfectly.

It put the American GTE Spacenet's Gstar 2 and the Brazilian Embratel's Brasilsat S2 telecommunications satellites into elliptical geostationary holding orbits up to 36,000 kilometres above the earth.

The success of the mission reinforced the strong position of Arianespace since the Jan. 28 U.S. Challenger explosion. President Reagan suspended the shuttle launch programme during investigations into the disaster and the Europeans said they were ready to cash in on the Americans' misfortune.

Arianespace Chairman Frederic d'Allest said in a euphoric post-launch briefing: "It is very, very satisfying, and we are particularly happy for our clients."

He said negotiations were underway to fill the eight spare satellite launch slots which Ariane has available before the end of 1988, adding he hoped to announce by June that all eight had been sold.

Industry officials have said several satellite operators may be forced to switch to the Ariane launcher simply due to lack of space on the shuttle, even when it resumes operations.

Arianespace already has \$1.25 billion worth of orders to launch about 30 satellites. It has said it will increase its launch schedule in 1987 and 1988 to take account of the surge in demand following the Challenger accident.

The American satellite owners seemed pleased too. "It went very well," beamed Jerry Whelan, president of GTE Spacenet Corporation, whose satellite will improve domestic U.S. television and telecommunications when it is manoeuvred into a final orbit at the weekend.

Martin Rothblatt, president of Geostar Corporation which was also involved with the satellite, said: "I am really impressed with this whole operation, especially its market orientation."

Friday night's launch came five weeks after another Ariane rocket successfully launched two European scientific satellites.

And it helped erase the memory of last September's failure when an Ariane-3 had to be blown up with its payload of two satellites after it started to lose height five minutes from liftoff.

The aborted launch nine days ago was due to a fault in the ground computer system on Kourou's new launchpad, being used for the first time.

The rocket had been hit by a string of delays that left it standing on the launchpad since late January.

The new pad is an important step for Ariane, since it will double its launch capacity to 10 a year from five.

Arianespace has successfully launched 14 satellites, including the two Friday night.

The next launch is planned for the end of May. In October the larger Ariane-4 rocket is due to be used for the first time.

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